

ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

JULY 2011

The Trends 100 25th Edition

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Alaska's Registered Apprenticeships

Employers and workers make a solid investment

Employment Scene

Unemployment rate at 7.4 percent in May



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Governor Sean Parnell
Commissioner Click Bishop

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July 2011
Volume 31
Number 7
ISSN 0160-3345

Brynn Keith, Chief
Research and Analysis

To contact us for more information, a free subscription, mailing list changes, or back copies, e-mail trends@alaska.gov or call (907) 465-4500.

Sara Whitney, Editor
Sam Dapcevich, Cover Artist

Alaska Economic Trends is a monthly publication dealing with a wide variety of economic issues in the state. Its purpose is to inform the public about those issues.

To contact *Trends* authors or request a free subscription, e-mail trends@alaska.gov or call (907) 465-4500. *Trends* is on the Web at labor.alaska.gov/trends.

Alaska Economic Trends is funded by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It's published by the Research and Analysis Section.

Alaska Economic Trends is printed and distributed by Assets, Inc., a vocational training and employment program, at a cost of \$1.36 per copy.

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Cover:
This sunrise view of the Wrangell Mountains was taken from Willow Lake in the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

On page 4, this Wikimedia Commons photo shows CH2M Hill headquarters in Anchorage. CH2M Hill is No. 8 on the 2010 *Trends* 100 list.

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Trends Authors



Neal Fried, a Department of Labor economist in Anchorage, specializes in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region's employment, wages, and the cost of living. To reach him, call (907) 269-4861 or e-mail him at Neal.Fried@alaska.gov.



Jack Cannon is a research analyst with the Department of Labor in Juneau. He works on special projects. To reach him, call (907) 465-6030 or email him at Jack.Cannon@alaska.gov.



Yuancie Lee is an economist with the Department of Labor in Juneau. He works on special projects. To reach him, call (907) 465-6026 or e-mail him at Yuancie.Lee@alaska.gov.

Trends list of Alaska's top employers turns 25



**By Commissioner
Click Bishop**

This year we celebrate the silver anniversary of the *Trends* list of Alaska's largest private-sector employers. During 2010, these *Trends* 100 employers provided 38 percent of all private-sector earnings, or \$4.3 billion.

Providence Health & Services topped the *Trends* 100 again in 2010, as it has for the past 10 years. That Providence and 16 other health care-related companies are on the list demonstrates the importance of that industry in our economy.

About one-third of all private-sector workers in Alaska are employed by *Trends* 100 companies. Collectively, these employers grew their workforces by 1.5 percent, faster than the overall private sector. Six Alaska companies fell off the top 100 — for five of those, employment either fell slightly or it didn't grow fast enough to keep up with other employers.

The variety of the *Trends* 100 — from health care and oil and gas to Alaska Native-owned companies, nonprofits, transportation, and visitor-focused companies — is a positive sign.

While Alaska's 21-year streak of job gains was broken in 2009, employment began recovering in 2010 and our economy continues to show improvement as we slowly add jobs again this year. We also have a new streak — for 31 consecutive months, Alaska's unemployment rate has been below the national rate.

Apprenticeship update

Also in this month's *Trends* is an update to our 2007 inaugural study on registered apprenticeship in Alaska. The current study builds on the work started by our research economists in a one-of-a-kind partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor.

We are also working with the U.S. Department of Labor to focus on nontraditional use of apprenticeship as part of a connected education and training infrastructure in Alaska. High school students can begin planning a career path before graduation, creating and implementing a plan that includes postsecondary education and registered apprenticeship.

High school students can earn tech prep credit through collaboration of Alaska high schools, the Alaska Office of Apprenticeship, AVTEC—Alaska's Institute of Technology, and the University of Alaska. These students earn postsecondary credit or advanced placement in construction, welding, mechanics, and health care occupations that directly lead to registered apprenticeships or other postsecondary education.

One specific example is the partnership of the Alaska Department of Labor, Juneau-Douglas High School, and the University of Alaska Southeast. High school students enrolled in a carpentry program receive 500 hours toward an apprenticeship or nine credits at UAS.

One promising new program is certified nurse assistant and direct support specialist for Alaska's health care industry. Through the University of Alaska Prince William Sound campus, with participation from employers in Fairbanks and Juneau, high school students get a jump start on a health care career by earning apprenticeship hours and university advanced placement.

Registered apprenticeship is a workforce development partnership that can help employers develop a custom workforce. The Alaska Department of Labor can assist by providing wage incentives, program development, related instruction, and apprenticeship support services.

The *Trends* 100, 25th Edition

Alaska's largest employers in 2010



The 2010 list of Alaska's largest private-sector employers marks the 25th year of the *Trends* 100. The employers who make up the list have also been surprisingly enduring. While some firms have come and gone, all of the top 10 employers from 1985¹ are still with us in some form today. (See Exhibits 1 and 2.)

In 1985, the list was only 50 long. While the original top 10 have made the list every year since, 21 of the original 50 have dropped off the list. Another significant change since then is employer size. In 1985, only six companies had more than 1,000 employees, in contrast to 19 on the contemporary list.

If we look back just a decade, 78 of the employers that made the list in 2000 are still on it now. However, 22 of the current top 100 employers didn't register on the list in 2000.

Because these 2010 employers represent nearly a third of all private-sector wage and salary employment and 38 percent of all earnings — \$4.3 billion

¹The first issue, published in July 1987, used 1985 data.

Why employment is in ranges

Trends 100, the list of companies and organizations in Alaska with the highest average monthly employment, was first published as the top 50 employers in *Trends*' July 1987 issue.

Since then, confidentiality restrictions have tightened, and it's prohibited to release a firm's actual employment numbers without consent.

Because of the time it would take to obtain each company's permission, the *Trends* 100 gives a range for each company's employment rather than a specific number. However, the ranking system is still based on the specific unpublished employment number.

— examining these employers provides a window into Alaska's economy.

Providence top dog for 10 years

For the 10th straight year, Providence Health & Services (Providence Alaska Medical Center) topped the list of Alaska's 100 largest employers. The last employer to grace this top spot was Carrs/Safeway in 2000. There is little chance this top spot will go to someone else any time soon.

The 1,000-plus club grew by one

In 2010, 19 of Alaska's private businesses employed more than 1,000 workers — one more than in 2009. UPS's employment growth in 2010 pushed it into the 1,000-plus club.

Six new kids on the block

A new group of six employers made it into the *Trends* 100 for 2010. (See Exhibit 4 on page 8.) Like most new firms that make the list, nearly all grew steadily over the years. Central Peninsula Hospital was the exception. Prior to 2010, the hos-
(Article continues on page 8.)

1 Top 10 Employers in 1985

Alaska private sector

Average monthly employment in 1985*

		Average monthly employment in 1985*
1	ARCO Alaska (became part of ConocoPhillips in 2000 with some assets bought by BP Exploration)	2,835
2	Carr-Gottstein Foods Co. (bought by Safeway in 1999)	1,864
3	Providence Alaska Medical Center	1,637
4	Sohio Alaska Petroleum Co. (now BP Exploration)	1,348
5	Lutheran Hospital & Homes Society (now Banner Health)	1,066
6	Alascom (now AT&T Alascom)	1,028
7	National Bank of Alaska (bought by Wells Fargo in 1999)	942
8	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	907
9	Safeway	845
10	1st National Bank of Anchorage (now First National Bank Alaska)	803

*Data first published in July 1987 *Trends*.

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

Alaska's 100 Largest Private-Sector Employers 2

Employment in 2010

Rank ¹	Firm name	Average monthly employment in 2010 ²	Type of business	Headquarters or largest work site
1	Providence Health & Services	4,000+	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage
2	Walmart/Sam's Club	3,000 to 3,249	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage
3	Carrs/Safeway	2,750 to 2,999	Grocery	Anchorage
4	Fred Meyer	2,500 to 2,749	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage
5	ASRC Energy Services	2,500 to 2,749	Oil field services	Anchorage
6	Trident Seafoods	2,250 to 2,499	Seafood processing	Akutan
7	BP Exploration Alaska	2,000 to 2,249	Oil and gas extraction	Anchorage
8	CH2M HILL	1,750 to 1,999	Oil field services	Anchorage
9	NANA Management Services	1,750 to 1,999	Catering/lodging/security	Anchorage
10	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) ³	1,500 to 1,749	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage
11	Alaska Airlines	1,500 to 1,749	Air carrier	Anchorage
12	GCI Communications	1,250 to 1,499	Communications	Anchorage
13	Banner Health (includes Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	1,250 to 1,499	Hospital/medical center	Fairbanks
14	Southcentral Foundation ⁴	1,250 to 1,499	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage
15	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249	Hospital/medical center	Bethel
16	FedEx	1,000 to 1,249	Air freight/courier service	Anchorage
17	ConocoPhillips Alaska	1,000 to 1,249	Oil and gas extraction	Anchorage
18	Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	1,000 to 1,249	Financial services	Anchorage
19	UPS (United Parcel Service)	1,000 to 1,249	Air freight/courier service	Anchorage
20	McDonald's Restaurants of Alaska	750 to 999	Eating establishment	Anchorage
21	Wells Fargo	750 to 999	Financial services	Anchorage
22	Doyon Universal Services	750 to 999	Catering/lodging	Anchorage
23	Home Depot	750 to 999	Building products	Anchorage
24	Alaska Regional Hospital	750 to 999	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage
25	The Alaska Club	750 to 999	Health club	Anchorage
26	Icicle Seafoods	750 to 999	Seafood processing	Petersburg
27	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)	750 to 999	Social services/health care	Sitka
28	Hope Community Resources	750 to 999	Social services	Anchorage
29	UniSea	750 to 999	Seafood processing	Dutch Harbor
30	Alaska Commercial Company	750 to 999	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage
31	Costco	750 to 999	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage
32	Spenard Builders Supply	750 to 999	Building products	Anchorage
33	Lowe's	750 to 999	Building products	Anchorage
34	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	750 to 999	Transportation	Anchorage
35	Alaska Communication Systems (ACS)	500 to 749	Communications	Anchorage
36	First National Bank Alaska	500 to 749	Financial services	Anchorage
37	Central Peninsula Hospital	500 to 749	Hospital/medical center	Soldotna
38	First Student	500 to 749	Transportation	Anchorage
39	Westward Seafood	500 to 749	Seafood processing	Unalaska
40	Mat-Su Regional Medical Center	500 to 749	Hospital/medical center	Mat-Su
41	Alaska Consumer Direct Personal Care	500 to 749	Home health	Anchorage
42	Tanana Chiefs Conference	500 to 749	Social services/health care	Fairbanks
43	PeterPan Seafoods	500 to 749	Seafood processing	King Cove
44	Udelhoven Oilfield System Services	500 to 749	Oil field services	Anchorage
45	Job Ready (ReadyCare)	500 to 749	Vocational rehabilitation	Anchorage
46	Schlumberger Technologies	500 to 749	Oil field services	Anchorage
47	Maniilaq Association	500 to 749	Social services/health care	Kotzebue
48	Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	500 to 749	Hotel/resort	Denali Park
49	Alyeska Resort (includes O'Malley's on the Green)	500 to 749	Hotel/resort	Girdwood
50	Ocean Beauty Seafoods	250 to 499	Seafood processing	Kodiak

2 Alaska's 100 Largest Private-Sector Employers

Employment in 2010 (continued)

Rank ¹	Firm name	Average monthly employment in 2010 ²	Type of business	Headquarters or largest work site
51	ASRC Energy Services–Houston Contracting	250 to 499	Oil field services	Anchorage
52	PenAir	250 to 499	Air carrier	Anchorage
53	Fairbanks Gold Mining (Fort Knox)	250 to 499	Mining	Fairbanks
54	Carlile Enterprises	250 to 499	Trucking/warehousing	Anchorage
55	Nabors Alaska Drilling	250 to 499	Oil field services	Anchorage
56	Teck Cominco Alaska (Red Dog Mine)	250 to 499	Mining	Red Dog
57	Royal Highway Tours	250 to 499	Scenic and sightseeing transp.	Anchorage
58	Horizon Lines of Alaska	250 to 499	Water transportation	Red Dog
59	Norton Sound Health Corporation	250 to 499	Health care	Kotzebue
60	Peak Oilfield Services Company	250 to 499	Oil field services	Anchorage
61	Target	250 to 499	General merchandise	Anchorage
62	Assets	250 to 499	Social services	Anchorage
63	Colaska (QAP, SECON, and Exclusive Paving)	250 to 499	Construction	Anchorage
64	SMG of Alaska (Sullivan Arena)	250 to 499	Facilities support services	Anchorage
65	Rural Alaska Community Action Program	250 to 499	Social services	Anchorage
66	North Pacific Seafoods	250 to 499	Seafood processing	Kodiak
67	Denali Foods (Taco Bell)	250 to 499	General merchandise	Anchorage
68	Ketchikan General Hospital	250 to 499	Hospital/medical center	Ketchikan
69	Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture	250 to 499	Catering/concessionaire	Denali Park
70	Odom Corporation (Anchorage Cold Storage)	250 to 499	Wholesale	Anchorage
71	Sears	250 to 499	General merchandise	Anchorage
72	North Star Behavioral Health System	250 to 499	Health care	Anchorage
73	C Care Services	250 to 499	Private households	Anchorage
74	Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	250 to 499	Health care	Dillingham
75	Crowley Marine	250 to 499	Coastal freight transport	Anchorage
76	Era Aviation	250 to 499	Air carrier	Anchorage
77	Halliburton Energy Services	250 to 499	Oil field services	Anchorage
78	Hageland Aviation Services	250 to 499	Air carrier	Bethel
79	Access Alaska	250 to 499	Social services	Anchorage
80	Nordstrom	250 to 499	Apparel	Anchorage
81	Greens Creek–Hecla Mining Company	250 to 499	Mining	Juneau
82	Hickel Investment Company (Hotel Captain Cook)	250 to 499	Hotel/real estate	Anchorage
83	Tesoro Northstore Company	250 to 499	Retail/gas stations	Anchorage
84	Lithia Motors	250 to 499	Car dealerships	Anchorage
85	Holiday Stationstores	250 to 499	Retail/gas stations	Anchorage
86	Chugach Electric Association	250 to 499	Utility	Anchorage
87	Westmark Hotels	250 to 499	Hotels	Anchorage
88	Columbia Sussex (Anchorage Marriott, Hilton Anchorage)	250 to 499	Hotels	Anchorage
89	Chevron	250 to 499	Oil and gas extraction	Anchorage
90	Frontier Community Services	250 to 499	Social services	Anchorage
91	NORCON	250 to 499	Oil field services	Anchorage
92	Doyon Drilling	250 to 499	Oil field services	Anchorage
93	Matanuska Telephone Association	250 to 499	Communications	Palmer
94	Pizza Hut	250 to 499	Eating establishment	Anchorage
95	AT&T Alascom	250 to 499	Communications	Anchorage
96	Pogo Mine	250 to 499	Mining	Delta Junction
97	Best Buy	250 to 499	Retail	Anchorage
98	Salvation Army Alaska Division	250 to 499	Social services	Anchorage
99	The Arc of Anchorage	250 to 499	Social services	Anchorage
100	International Seafoods (Kodiak Seafood)	250 to 499	Seafood processing	Kodiak

¹When two or more employers had the same number of employees, they were ranked by unrounded employment.

²These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into: the ranking is based on the specific employment number.

³This count excludes approximately 293 of ANTHC's federal employees.

⁴This count excludes approximately 130 of Southcentral Foundation's federal employees.

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

	Average monthly employment in 2010
NATURAL RESOURCES and MINING	
Mining (except oil and gas)	
Fairbanks Gold Mining Company (Fort Knox)	250 to 499
Teck Cominco Alaska (Red Dog Mine)	250 to 499
Greens Creek–Hecla Mining Company	250 to 499
Pogo Mine	250 to 499
Oil and Gas Extraction and Oilfield Services	
ASRC Energy Services	2,500 to 2,749
BP Exploration	2,000 to 2,499
CH2M Hill	2,000 to 2,499
ConocoPhillips Alaska	1,000 to 1,249
Udelhoven Oilfield System Services	500 to 749
Schlumberger Technologies	500 to 749
ASRC Energy Services – Houston Contracting	250 to 499
Nabors Alaska Drilling	250 to 499
Peak Oilfield Service Company	250 to 499
Halliburton Energy Services	250 to 499
Chevron	250 to 499
NORCON	250 to 499
Doyon Drilling	250 to 499
CONSTRUCTION	
Colaska	250 to 499
MANUFACTURING	
Seafood Processing	
Trident Seafoods	2,250 to 2,499
Icicle Seafoods	750 to 999
UniSea	750 to 999
Westward Seafood	500 to 749
PeterPan Seafoods	500 to 749
Ocean Beauty Seafoods	250 to 499
North Pacific Seafoods	250 to 499
International Seafoods (Kodiak Seafood)	250 to 499
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, and UTILITIES	
Trade	
Wholesale	
Odom Corporation (Anchorage Cold Storage)	250 to 499
Retail	
Walmart/Sam's Club	3,000 to 3,249
Carrs/Safeway	2,750 to 2,999
Fred Meyer	2,500 to 2,749
Home Depot	750 to 999
Alaska Commercial Company	750 to 999
Spennard Builders Supply	750 to 999
Costco	750 to 999
Lowe's	750 to 999
Target	250 to 499
Sears	250 to 499
Nordstrom	250 to 499
Tesoro Northstore Company	250 to 499
Lithia Motors	250 to 499
Holiday Stationstores	250 to 499
Best Buy	250 to 499
Transportation	
Alaska Airlines	1,500 to 1,749
FedEx	1,000 to 1,249
UPS (United Parcel Services)	1,000 to 1,249
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	750 to 999
First Student	500 to 749

	Average monthly employment in 2010
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, and UTILITIES (continued)	
PenAir	250 to 499
Carlisle Enterprises	250 to 499
Royal Highway Tours	250 to 499
Horizon Lines of Alaska	250 to 499
Crowley Marine	250 to 499
Era Aviation	250 to 499
Hageland Aviation Services	250 to 499
Utilities	
Chugach Electric Association	250 to 499
INFORMATION	
Telecommunications	
GCI Communications	1,250 to 1,499
Alaska Communication Systems (ACS)	500 to 749
Matanuska Telephone Association	250 to 499
AT&T Alascom	250 to 499
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	
Finance and Insurance	
Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	1,000 to 1,249
Wells Fargo	750 to 999
First National Bank Alaska	500 to 749
PROFESSIONAL and BUSINESS SERVICES	
Administrative and Support Services	
SMG of Alaska (Sullivan Arena)	250 to 499
EDUCATION and HEALTH SERVICES	
Health Services and Social Assistance	
Providence Health & Services	4,000+
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)	1,500 to 1,749
Banner Health (incl. Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	1,200 to 1,499
Southcentral Foundation	1,200 to 1,499
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249
Alaska Regional Hospital	750 to 999
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC)	750 to 999
Hope Community Resources	750 to 999
Central Peninsula Hospital	500 to 749
Mat-Su Regional Medical Center	500 to 749
Alaska Consumer Direct Personal Care	500 to 749
Tanana Chiefs Conference	500 to 749
Job Ready	500 to 749
Manilaq Association	500 to 749
Norton Sound Health Corporation	250 to 499
Assets	250 to 499
Rural Alaska Community Action Program	250 to 499
Ketchikan General Hospital	250 to 499
North Star Behavioral Health	250 to 499
C Care Services	250 to 499
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	250 to 499
Access Alaska	250 to 499
Frontier Community Services	250 to 499
Salvation Army Alaska Division	250 to 499
The Arc of Anchorage	250 to 499
LEISURE and HOSPITALITY	
Accommodations	
Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	500 to 749
Alyeska Resort (O'Malley's on the Green)	500 to 749
Hickel Investment Company (Hotel Captain Cook)	250 to 499
Westmark Hotels	250 to 499

pital was counted as a public facility, but is now recorded among private-sector nonprofit employers.

One of the employers new to the list is also a nonprofit organization. The Arc of Anchorage, a big employer, provides a variety of social services in Anchorage. Like many others, it has graced this list before.

Hageland Aviation Services of Bethel is another example of the many employers who have disappeared from the list and reappeared later. For

decades, it has been one of Alaska's largest rural air carriers. It operates out of nine communities around the state, serving more than a dozen communities. Hageland is now associated with Era Aviation, but reports its employment separately.²

Best Buy made the list because it recently added a second store in Anchorage. International Seafoods, a longtime fish processor in Kodiak, grew enough to make the cut in 2010 and so did ASRC Energy Services–Houston Contracting, the union arm of ASRC Energy Services.

An equal number fell off the list

All six of the firms that slipped off this year's list remain sizeable employers in Alaska's labor market. In nearly all cases, their employment either fell modestly or didn't grow fast enough to keep up with other employers. The most dramatic of these was Delta Airlines, which merged with Northwest Airlines and then closed the Northwest Airlines cargo operations. The other five were Subway, Cook Inlet Tribal, Northrim Bank, Chugach Development Corporation, and NANA WorleyParsons (a NANA subsidiary).

Three jumped 10 or more places

The fast movers were a particularly small group this year, possibly because overall employment growth in Alaska was modest in 2010. (See Exhibit 5.) Two of these employers, Alaska Consumer Direct Personal Care and C Care, are personal care providers: a dynamic part of the state's economy. Era Aviation was another fast mover. It has grown steadily over the years and recently absorbed Frontier Airlines.

Dominance in the private sector

Nearly a third (32 percent) of all private-sector employees in Alaska work for one of the *Trends* 100 employers. These employers' workforces grew by 1.5 percent in 2010, a bit faster than the

²Employment data are from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages database. Firms subject to unemployment insurance laws must file a quarterly report showing employment during the pay period that includes the 12th of each month. The self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, and most agricultural workers (including most seafood harvesters) are not included. This analysis considered each UI account number as a separate firm. Firms operating with multiple UI account numbers were counted once for each. Firms with multiple work sites but operating under a single account number were counted once.

3 Trends 100 by Industry

Alaska employment, 2010 (continued)

Average monthly employment in 2010

LEISURE and HOSPITALITY (continued)	
Columbia Sussex (Anchorage Marriott, Hilton Anchorage)	250 to 499
Food Services and Drinking Places	
NANA Management Services	1,750 to 1,999
McDonald's Restaurants of Alaska	750 to 999
Doyon/Universal Services	750 to 999
Denali Foods (Taco Bell)	250 to 499
Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture	250 to 499
Pizza Hut	250 to 499
Recreation	
The Alaska Club	750 to 999

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

4 Six New Players Make the List

Alaska, 2010

Average monthly employment in 2010

Central Peninsula Hospital	500 to 749
ASRC Services–Houston Contracting	250 to 499
Hageland Aviation Services	250 to 499
Best Buy	250 to 499
The Arc of Anchorage	250 to 499
International Seafoods (Kodiak Seafood)	250 to 499

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

5 The Big Movers in 2010

Rankings up by at least 10 since 2009

Alaska Consumer Direct Personal Care	53rd to 41st
C Care Services	99th to 73rd
Era Aviation	90th to 76th

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

overall private sector.

The average annual earnings for these employers in 2010 were \$55,447, compared to \$46,685 for all private-sector earnings in Alaska. This doesn't mean all of these employers pay above-average wages, though. Their pay scales cover the spectrum — there are employers in the top 10 whose total payroll is smaller than firms listed in the bottom half. The huge presence of the oil industry is the biggest reason for this above-average wage. (See Exhibit 3.) When the oil industry employers are omitted from the *Trends* 100, the average annual earnings for this group fall to \$45,249.

Many are Native-owned

The list of Native organizations is a mixture of for-profit and nonprofit companies that includes oil field service companies, caterers, health care providers, social services, contractors, and personnel services. (See Exhibit 6.) Many of the employers, such as Maniilaq Association, are health and social service providers.

Three organizations fell off the list this year and one new one appeared. The new organization was ASRC Energy Services–Houston Contracting, which is the union arm of ASRC Energy Services — the largest employer on this list. ASRC Energy Services was also the state's largest oil industry employer, with more than 2,500 employees.

The *Trends* 100 includes only individual firms regardless of ownership, which can understate the presence of Native corporations. If all joint ventures and their subsidiaries were combined, their representation would certainly be larger. Even given these shortcomings, their showing is a testament to the influence of Native corporations in Alaska's labor market.

Nearly a quarter are in nonprofits

Although the nonprofit sector is not often touted as a powerful force in Alaska's economy, its presence on the *Trends* 100 list tells an important story. (See Exhibit 7.) Nearly a quarter — 24 percent — of all *Trends* 100 employment is in nonprofits.

Most of these nonprofits provide social or educational services, health care, or a combination of all three. Health care dominates the list, topped

Alaska Native Employers **6**

Alaska employment, 2010

Average monthly employment in 2010

	Average monthly employment in 2010
ASRC Energy Services	2,500 to 2,749
NANA Management Services	1,750 to 1,999
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)	1,500 to 1,749
Southcentral Foundation	1,250 to 1,499
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249
Doyon/Universal Ogden, Joint Venture	750 to 999
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC)	750 to 999
Tanana Chiefs Conference	500 to 749
Maniilaq Association	500 to 749
ASRC Energy Services–Houston Contracting	500 to 749
Norton Sound Health Corporation	250 to 499
Peak Oilfield Services Company	250 to 499
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	250 to 499
Doyon Drilling	250 to 499

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

Nonprofit Organizations **7**

Alaska employment, 2010

Average monthly employment in 2010

	Average monthly employment in 2010
Providence Health & Services	4,000+
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)	1,500 to 1,749
Banner Health (mostly Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	1,250 to 1,499
Southcentral Foundation	1,250 to 1,499
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249
Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	1,000 to 1,249
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC)	750 to 999
Hope Community Resources	750 to 999
Central Peninsula Hospital	500 to 750
Tanana Chiefs Conference	500 to 750
Maniilaq Association	500 to 750
Norton Sound Health Corporation	250 to 499
Assets	250 to 499
Rural Alaska Community Action Program	250 to 499
Ketchikan General Hospital	250 to 499
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	250 to 499
Access Alaska	250 to 499
Chugach Electric Association	250 to 499
Frontier Community Services	250 to 499
Matanuska Telephone Association	250 to 499
Salvation Army Alaska Division	250 to 499
The Arc Of Anchorage	250 to 499

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

by the state's largest employer, Providence Health & Services. These health care providers represent all areas of the state and are often the largest or second-largest employers in their communities. Examples are Banner Health in Fairbanks, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation in Bethel, Maniilaq in Kotzebue, and Norton Sound Health Corporation in Nome.

The top 10 list does change

Six of the employers on the top 10 were there a decade ago. (See Exhibit 8.) The newer players have grown enough over time to reach this height, but all of these employers were somewhere on the *Trends* 100 list in 2000.

Two of the newcomers are Native-owned/run organizations: NANA Management Services and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Also new to the top 10 is BP Exploration, which grew after buying some of ARCO's assets.

Combined employment of the top 10 in 2000 was

18,194, compared to 25,151 in 2010 — a testament to Alaska's growing workforce.

Oil and mining well represented

The *Trends* 100 is not dominated by any particular industry. (See Exhibit 3.) However, the majority of a few industries' employment is in the top 100, and one of these is the oil industry. Eighty-nine percent of all oil industry workers are represented by employers on this list. The list also encompasses four of Alaska's six larger industrial mines. Usibelli Coal Mine and Kensington are the only ones missing.

Unlike oil or mining, only 43 percent of retail employment is captured by *Trends* 100 firms. Just a decade ago, five of the top retailers weren't on the list. Two *Trends* 100 retailers from 2000, Kmart and Alaska Marketplace, have since disappeared.

All geographic areas represented

Although a majority of the *Trends* 100 employers have headquarters or their largest work site in Anchorage, only a few operate there exclusively. Carrs/Safeway is headquartered in Anchorage but has stores in more than a dozen other communities. Fish processors can also be found all over the state, but none are located in Anchorage. Some have remote work sites such as North Pacific's processing plant at Peterson's Point, three miles from Naknek.

Seafood dominates coastal areas

A little over a third of the largest private-sector employers by geographic area are seafood processors, evidence of coastal communities' reliance on fishing. (See Exhibit 9.) Health care is also well represented, although many of the largest employers in these communities don't show up on the *Trends* 100 roll call.

Public sector wins when included

When the public sector is included in the state's 10 largest employers, the list changes dramatically. (See Exhibit 10.) Only four private-sector employers remain on top. This probably does not come as much of a surprise, even to the casual observer.

However, the public sector has grown more slowly than the private sector and will probably

8 What's Happened in 10 Years

Top 10 employers in 2010 vs. 2000

Average monthly employment in 2010	
1	Providence Health & Services 4,000+
2	Walmart/Sam's Club 3,000 to 3,249
3	Carrs/Safeway 2,750 to 2,999
4	Fred Meyer 2,500 to 2,749
5	ASRC Energy Services 2,250 to 2,499
6	Trident Seafoods 2,250 to 2,499
7	BP Exploration Alaska 2,000 to 2,249
8	CH2M HILL 1,750 to 1,999
9	NANA Management Services 1,750 to 1,999
10	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) 1,500 to 1,749

Average monthly employment in 2000	
1	Carrs/Safeway 3,270
2	Providence Health & Services 3,098
3	Fred Meyer 2,146
4	Walmart/Sam's Club 1,911
5	Alaska Airlines 1,694
6	VECO Operations (now CH2M Hill) 1,392
7	Alaska Petroleum Contractors (now ASRC Energy Services) 1,314
8	Banner Health 1,138
9	National Bank of Alaska/Wells Fargo 1,118
10	Federal Express (became FedEx after 2000) 1,113

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

Largest Private-Sector Employers by Area

Alaska, 2010

9

Area	Employer	Average monthly employment in 2010
Statewide	Providence Health & Services	4,000+
Aleutians West Census Area	Unisea	750 to 999
Aleutians East Borough	Trident Seafoods	750 to 999
Anchorage, Municipality of	Providence Health & Services	3,500 to 3,749
Bethel Census Area	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249
Bristol Bay Borough	Trident Seafoods	250 to 499
Denali Borough	Doyon/ARAMARK Joint Venture	250 to 499
Dillingham Census Area	Icicle Seafoods	250 to 499
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Banner Health (includes Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	1,250 to 1,499
Haines Borough	Ocean Beauty Seafoods	1 to 99
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Point Sophia Development Company*	1 to 99
Juneau, City and Borough of	Greens Creek-Hecla Mining Company	250 to 499
Kenai Peninsula Borough	Central Peninsula General Hospital	500 to 749
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	Ketchikan General Hospital	250 to 499
Kodiak Island Borough	International Seafoods	250 to 499
Lake and Peninsula Borough	Iliamna Development Corporation*	1 to 99
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Mat-Su Regional Medical Center	500 to 749
Nome Census Borough	Norton Sound Health Corporation	250 to 499
North Slope Borough	ASRC Energy Services	2,000 to 2,249
Northwest Arctic Borough	Teck Cominco Alaska (Red Dog Mine)	250 to 499
Petersburg Census Area	Icicle Seafoods	100 to 250
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	Annette Island Packing Company*	1 to 99
Sitka, City and Borough of	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)	250 to 499
Skagway, Municipality of	White Pass Railroad*	100 to 250
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	Pogo Mine	250 to 499
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	100 to 250
Wade Hampton Census Area	Kwik'pak Fisheries*	1 to 99
Wrangell, City and Borough of	Alaska Island Community Services*	100 to 250
Yakutat, City and Borough of	Yakutat Seafoods*	1 to 99
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Tanana Chiefs Conference	100 to 250

*The largest private-sector employers by area are often not large enough to make the *Trends* 100 list.

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

continue to do so, enabling more private-sector employers to populate the top rankings. An example is the Municipality of Anchorage. In 2009 it ranked seventh on the list, but by 2010 its employment had declined by 264, pushing it down to number nine on the list behind Walmart/Sam's Club and Carrs/Safeway.

10 Top 10 Including Public Sector

Alaska, 2010

		Average monthly employment in 2010
1	Uniformed military	22,796
2	State of Alaska	18,337
3	Federal civilians	17,535
4	University of Alaska	7,579
5	Anchorage School District	7,157
6	Providence Health & Services	4,000+
7	Walmart/Sam's Club	3,000 to 3,249
8	Carrs/Safeway	2,750 to 2,999
9	Municipality of Anchorage	2,846
10	Fred Meyer	2,500 to 2,749

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Department of Defense, The Defense Manpower Data Center, May 13, 2010

Alaska's Registered Apprenticeships

Employers and workers make a solid investment

About 11,000 young Alaskans¹ will join the working-age population this year, and many of them will vie for jobs with roughly 29,000 other unemployed Alaskans.² Many of these young people will need additional training and education to compete, and some will apply to a registered apprenticeship program.

To become a craftsman, a worker must master both knowledge and skill, and a registered apprenticeship provides for both. Many other occupations have some required on-the-job training, but the apprenticeship structure ensures the information and skills are passed on correctly.

Workers who have successfully completed an apprenticeship are likely to find stable, living-wage jobs — and employers who sponsor apprentices invest in their industry, employees, and the future of their company by fostering a loyal local workforce.

More than 60 percent of registered apprenticeships in Alaska³ between 1998 and 2009 were sponsored in “joint” apprenticeship programs: partnerships between employers, unions, and/or employee associations. The rest were in nonjoint programs, usually with construction-related contractors. The sponsor or employer trains directly or works with the state and various schools to offer practical and theoretical instruction for highly skilled occupations.

Registered apprenticeships consist of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job training plus 144 hours of classroom or related instruction. Nationally, the registered apprenticeship program offers access to about 1,000 career areas. Alaska has apprenticeships in more than 70 occupations, from the traditional construction jobs to industries such as advanced manufacturing and health care.

¹According to *Population by Age, Race, and Sex* (<http://labor.alaska.gov/research/pop/popest.htm>), this is the number who will turn 16 this year.

²This is based on the December 2010 Alaska unemployment rate.

³America's apprenticeship system was created by the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937, which directed the Secretary of Labor to establish labor standards for apprentices.

By the end of 2009, there were 1,408 active apprentices in the state⁴ — 20 percent of the almost 7,000 who began an apprenticeship since 1998. Another 27 percent completed their program, and a little more than half, 52 percent, canceled. Roughly half of all cancellations were in the first year after registering, typically because of high standards set by sponsors. (See Exhibit 1, which starts on page 14.)

Young, male, and mostly white

Not surprisingly, apprentices begin their programs at a relatively young age. As in most education or training programs, most participants are just beginning their career path. Nearly half, 49 percent, entered their program between the ages of 16 and 24, and another 34 percent were between 25 and 34.

About 92 percent of all apprentices during the 1998-2009 period were male. This is mostly due to the high percentage of registered apprenticeships in construction-related trades, which tend to be dominated by men.

Almost 70 percent of all apprentices during the period were white, and about 23 percent were Alaska Native or American Indian. This is close to the racial profile of most working-age Alaskans.

Anchorage, Fairbanks, and the Matanuska-Susitna area account for about two-thirds of Alaska's population, but the three areas combined had nearly three-quarters of the state's apprentices during the period. This isn't surprising; urban areas tend to have more construction, and therefore more young workers learning this trade. However, every borough and census area in the state had apprentices during the period.

The state's current focus is on supporting nontraditional use of registered apprenticeships, so all Alaskans have an opportunity to participate. Apprenticeships are one way for rural residents to train for an

⁴Active apprentices are those whose program is still in progress, plus those who have left but reinstated at some point.

occupation without leaving their region or village.

More apprentices stay in Alaska

In 2009, almost 89 percent of apprentices who had registered between 1998 and 2009 were still in Alaska, and about two-thirds still lived in the same borough or census area where they registered. It appears more apprentices are moving within the state, and fewer are leaving Alaska. In 2007, 12.6 percent relocated within the state, compared to 18.6 percent in 2009.

In 2007, 80.1 percent of the apprentices who registered between 1996 and 2007 were residents, which increased to 85.5 percent in 2009 for 1998–2009 registrants. The recent recession has not been as harsh in Alaska as it has been in much of the Lower 48, and that may have encouraged some in-state apprentices to sit tight. It may also show that employers who offer apprenticeships can develop a loyal local workforce.

Sixty-four percent of all current and former apprentices, and more than 80 percent of those who completed their training, worked in occupations related to their apprenticeships. Less than half of those who canceled continued to work in a related job.

Most are in construction

Construction appears to be the apprenticeship stronghold. There are more apprentices in the construction industry than in any other, and they make up a larger percentage of all workers within that industry than in any other industry. Many joint apprenticeship programs in construction have training funds with earned benefits, and funding committed to workforce development.

In 2009, more than 10 percent — or 2,779 — of all construction workers had been apprentices at some point since 1998. The industry employed about 40 percent of all apprentices for all industries during that period. When unknown or nonworking apprentices were removed from the equation, construction accounted for about half of all apprentices.

However, construction's share was smaller than it had been two years before. In 2007, construction employed 2,849 people, or 44.1 percent of the state's apprentices.⁵ The drop is likely because construction

⁵See "Apprenticeships in Alaska" in the February 2009 edition of *Trends*.

For more on apprenticeships

Information about Alaska's registered apprenticeship programs is available online at jobs.alaska.gov/apprentice, or through one of the state's 23 Alaska Job Centers. Call (877) 724-2539, or go to jobs.alaska.gov and click on "Alaska Job Centers" on the left for a list.

Employers interested in sponsoring a registered apprenticeship program can contact the Apprenticeship Office by e-mailing apprenticeship@alaska.gov, or by calling Gerry Andrews, the state's apprenticeship coordinator, in Anchorage at (907) 269-4675.

peaked in the state in 2005 and has fallen slightly since, and a sponsor's willingness to take on new apprentices depends on the business climate.

Apprenticeship programs provided 3.7 percent of all natural resources and mining industry workers in 2009. Many apprentices in the natural resources and mining industry trained for the same occupations as those apprenticed to construction sponsors, such as electricians and construction laborers.

Less than 1 percent of all trade and transportation workers in 2009 had been apprentices. Leading occupations ranged from retail salespeople and cashiers to laborers, electrical power-line installers, and truck drivers.

Across all industries, 164 workers began electrician apprenticeships in 2009. That's only 10 fewer than the next three largest occupations combined: plumbers (77), construction craft laborers (53), and carpenters (44). These were followed by pipefitters (36) and roofers (32). To further explain these numbers, there are only two compulsory apprenticeship programs in Alaska: electrician and plumber.

Higher earnings for completers

Current and former apprentices working in Alaska earned more than \$253 million combined in 2009. That amounts to about 1.9 percent of all wages in the state that year, and 2.2 percent of wages for occupations that had at least one working apprentice.

Completing an apprenticeship pays off — workers who finished made significantly more than those who canceled. In 2009, workers from the 1998–2009 group who had completed their apprenticeships had average annual earnings of \$65,514, while those who canceled earned \$36,093.

1 A Detailed Profile of the Apprentices

Alaska, 1998 to 2009

	No. Current and Former Apprentices	Number of Completers	Percentage Completers	Number Canceled	Percent Canceled	Number Employed in Alaska 2009	% Employed	Total Alaska Wages 2009	Average Wages 2009	No. Working or Residents of Alaska	% in Alaska	# of Emp. Working in Related Job
Total	6,933	1,863	26.9	3,625	52.3	5,573	80.4	\$253,058,119	\$45,408	6,173	89.0	4,446
EMPLOYMENT STATUS 2009												
Not Employed or in Alaska	1,360	181	13.3	1,078	79.3	0	0.0	\$0	\$0	600	44.1	0
Employed	5,573	1,682	30.2	2,547	45.7	5,573	100.0	\$253,058,119	\$45,408	5,573	100.0	4,446
GENDER												
Female	543	133	24.5	299	55.1	414	76.2	\$14,326,525	\$34,605	481	86.9	277
Male	6,388	1,730	27.1	3,324	52.0	5,157	80.7	\$238,650,047	\$46,277	5,690	89.1	4,167
Unknown	2	0	0.0	2	100.0	2	100.0	n/d	n/d	2	100.0	2
RACE												
Unknown	110	8	7.3	51	46.4	92	83.6	\$2,787,264	\$30,296	99	90.0	62
Asian	136	35	25.7	77	56.6	106	77.9	\$4,419,272	\$41,691	113	83.1	87
Black	260	51	20.0	169	66.2	179	68.8	\$6,451,131	\$36,040	214	82.3	111
Hispanic	63	7	11.1	33	54.0	51	81.0	\$1,799,378	\$35,282	55	87.3	39
Amer.Indian/Alaska Native	1,563	339	21.7	925	60.1	1,277	81.7	\$45,215,625	\$35,408	1,442	92.3	949
White	4,801	1,423	29.8	2,370	50.0	3,868	80.6	\$192,385,449	\$49,738	4,250	88.5	3,198
AGE GROUP as of July 1, 2010												
Unknown	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
16 to 24	1,092	107	9.8	513	47.0	968	88.6	\$34,068,694	\$35,195	1,023	93.7	789
25 to 34	3,465	999	28.8	1,790	51.7	2,846	82.1	\$135,103,084	\$47,471	3,106	89.6	2,312
35 to 44	1,591	523	32.9	871	54.7	1,206	75.8	\$59,621,742	\$49,438	1,373	86.3	929
45 to 54	647	201	31.1	360	55.6	473	73.1	\$20,861,824	\$44,105	551	85.2	363
55 to 64	125	32	25.6	79	63.2	74	59.2	\$3,273,036	\$44,230	107	85.6	48
65 to 74	11	1	9.1	10	90.9	5	45.5	\$122,381	\$24,476	11	100.0	4
75+	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	\$0	\$0	1	100.0	0
PROGRAM TYPE												
Nonjoint	2,559	301	11.8	1,611	63.0	2,028	79.2	\$86,843,861	\$42,822	2,273	88.8	1,588
Joint	4,372	1,562	35.7	2,012	46.0	3,543	81.0	\$166,157,591	\$46,897	3,898	89.2	2,858
Unknown	2	0	0.0	2	100.0	2	100.0	n/d	n/d	2	100.0	0
LAST EVENT CODE STATUS												
Canceled	3,625	0	0.0	3,625	100.0	2,547	70.3	\$91,928,906	\$36,093	3,016	83.2	1,741
Completed	1,863	1,863	100.0	0	0.0	1,682	90.3	\$110,193,794	\$65,514	1,765	94.7	1,503
Registered	1,321	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,238	93.7	\$48,043,427	\$38,807	1,274	96.4	1,112
Reinstated	87	0	0.0	0	0.0	80	92.0	\$2,286,142	\$28,577	84	96.6	71
Suspended	37	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	70.3	\$605,849	\$23,302	34	91.9	19
REGISTRATION YEAR												
1998	239	120	50.2	118	49.4	158	66.1	\$9,829,183	\$62,210	189	79.1	123
1999	428	193	45.1	234	54.7	305	71.3	\$18,324,384	\$60,080	360	84.1	239
2000	386	162	42.0	223	57.8	283	73.3	\$17,470,600	\$61,734	322	83.4	224
2001	610	238	39.0	365	59.8	437	71.6	\$23,257,069	\$53,220	499	81.8	337
2002	492	216	43.9	267	54.3	376	76.4	\$19,022,697	\$50,592	440	89.4	282
2003	488	186	38.1	279	57.2	382	78.3	\$19,751,622	\$51,706	435	89.1	297
2004	547	209	38.2	297	54.3	450	82.3	\$21,724,673	\$48,277	496	90.7	378
2005	759	227	29.9	455	59.9	615	81.0	\$28,984,876	\$47,130	677	89.2	489
2006	791	168	21.2	465	58.8	638	80.7	\$28,601,983	\$44,831	701	88.6	482
2007	748	88	11.8	379	50.7	631	84.4	\$24,316,592	\$38,537	694	92.8	521
2008	728	36	4.9	331	45.5	643	88.3	\$22,919,432	\$35,645	686	94.2	537
2009	717	20	2.8	212	29.6	655	91.4	\$18,855,007	\$28,786	674	94.0	537
INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT 2009												
Unknown/not working	1,360	181	13.3	1,078	79.3	0	0.0	\$0	\$0	600	44.1	0
Construction	2,779	1,007	36.2	870	31.3	2,779	100.0	\$130,909,761	\$47,107	2,779	100.0	2,666
Educ. and Health Svcs.	179	36	20.1	110	61.5	179	100.0	\$5,913,706	\$33,037	179	100.0	55
Financial Activities	130	26	20.0	78	60.0	130	100.0	\$3,014,755	\$23,190	130	100.0	102
Information	99	53	53.5	36	36.4	99	100.0	\$6,110,609	\$61,723	99	100.0	86
Leisure and Hospitality	152	16	10.5	120	78.9	152	100.0	\$2,216,584	\$14,583	152	100.0	31
Local Government	287	51	17.8	192	66.9	287	100.0	\$8,589,371	\$29,928	287	100.0	162
Manufacturing	88	8	9.1	68	77.3	88	100.0	\$2,798,466	\$31,801	88	100.0	25
Natural Res. and Mining	777	243	31.3	360	46.3	777	100.0	\$51,537,461	\$66,329	777	100.0	658
Other Services	89	16	18.0	59	66.3	89	100.0	\$2,026,204	\$22,766	89	100.0	51
Prof./Business Services	341	96	28.2	194	56.9	341	100.0	\$14,415,861	\$42,275	341	100.0	203
Public Administration	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	0
State Government	97	28	28.9	61	62.9	97	100.0	\$4,239,613	\$43,707	97	100.0	65
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	549	101	18.4	395	71.9	549	100.0	\$21,082,203	\$38,401	549	100.0	339

A Detailed Profile of the Apprentices

Alaska, 1998 to 2009 (continued)



	No. Current and Former Apprentices	Number of Completers	Percentage Completers	Number Canceled	Percent Canceled	Number Employed in Alaska 2009	% Employed	Total Alaska Wages 2009	Average Wages 2009	No. Working or Residents of Alaska	% in Alaska	# of Emp. Working in Related Job
INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT 2009, continued												
Unclassified	5	1	20.0	3	60.0	5	100.0	\$173,728	\$34,746	5	100.0	3
BOROUGH/CENSUS AREA OF RESIDENCE AT REGISTRATION												
Unknown	70	7	10.0	44	62.9	50	71.4	\$1,665,070	\$33,301	52	74.3	45
Aleutians East Borough	14	1	7.1	13	92.9	8	57.1	\$201,033	\$25,129	12	85.7	5
Aleutians West Census Area	22	2	9.1	13	59.1	16	72.7	\$859,221	\$53,701	18	81.8	9
Anchorage, Municipality of	2,606	712	27.3	1,387	53.2	2,081	79.9	\$91,417,030	\$43,929	2,305	88.4	1,640
Bethel Census Area	129	18	14.0	84	65.1	114	88.4	\$2,823,654	\$24,769	122	94.6	73
Bristol Bay Borough	20	4	20.0	14	70.0	15	75.0	\$411,926	\$27,462	19	95.0	14
Denali Borough	21	10	47.6	9	42.9	17	81.0	\$1,024,066	\$60,239	20	95.2	14
Dillingham Census Area	32	5	15.6	20	62.5	29	90.6	\$588,330	\$20,287	31	96.9	17
Fairbanks North Star Borough	1,402	463	33.0	658	46.9	1,162	82.9	\$58,517,908	\$50,360	1,270	90.6	975
Haines Borough	19	3	15.8	10	52.6	16	84.2	\$470,764	\$29,423	17	89.5	15
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	3	1	33.3	1	33.3	3	100.0	n/d	n/d	3	100.0	3
Juneau, City and Borough of	243	86	35.4	100	41.2	204	84.0	\$9,531,022	\$46,721	218	89.7	172
Kenai Peninsula Borough	490	109	22.2	261	53.3	376	76.7	\$18,649,381	\$49,599	409	83.5	289
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	83	23	27.7	36	43.4	66	79.5	\$3,016,654	\$45,707	73	88.0	57
Kodiak Island Borough	64	16	25.0	27	42.2	53	82.8	\$2,585,903	\$48,791	57	89.1	47
Lake and Peninsula Borough	23	4	17.4	11	47.8	20	87.0	\$690,319	\$34,516	21	91.3	13
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	1,096	270	24.6	598	54.6	856	78.1	\$40,493,241	\$47,305	972	88.7	699
Nome Census Area	89	11	12.4	63	70.8	64	71.9	\$1,640,472	\$25,632	83	93.3	40
North Slope Borough	65	1	1.5	48	73.8	56	86.2	\$2,491,005	\$44,482	59	90.8	39
Northwest Arctic Borough	68	15	22.1	39	57.4	55	80.9	\$2,830,488	\$51,463	64	94.1	45
Petersburg Census Area	8	2	25.0	3	37.5	7	87.5	\$273,918	\$39,131	7	87.5	5
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	19	3	15.8	12	63.2	18	94.7	\$564,002	\$31,333	18	94.7	12
Sitka, City and Borough of	35	4	11.4	23	65.7	25	71.4	\$1,216,266	\$48,651	30	85.7	20
Skagway, Municipality of	4	2	50.0	1	25.0	4	100.0	n/d	n/d	4	100.0	2
Southeast Fairbanks CA	66	22	33.3	25	37.9	55	83.3	\$2,636,429	\$47,935	63	95.5	41
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	87	33	37.9	40	46.0	74	85.1	\$4,070,051	\$55,001	80	92.0	56
Wade Hampton Census Area	70	11	15.7	43	61.4	50	71.4	\$924,366	\$18,487	65	92.9	34
Wrangell, City and Borough of	11	5	45.5	4	36.4	10	90.9	\$421,604	\$42,160	11	100.0	10
Yakutat, City and Borough of	4	1	25.0	1	25.0	3	75.0	n/d	n/d	3	75.0	3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	70	19	27.1	37	52.9	66	94.3	\$2,634,917	\$39,923	67	95.7	52
SELECTED APPRENTICESHIP OCCUPATIONS												
Acoustical Carpenter	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
Airframe & Powerplant Mechanic	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	0
Asphalt Paving Mach. Operator	3	0	0.0	2	66.7	3	100.0	n/d	n/d	3	100.0	2
Automobile Mechanic	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
Baker (Bake Produce)	17	5	29.4	12	70.6	6	35.3	\$64,983	\$10,830	8	47.1	2
Bricklayer (Construction)	7	1	14.3	6	85.7	6	85.7	\$118,983	\$19,830	6	85.7	6
Car Repairer (Railroad Equip.)	28	17	60.7	7	25.0	21	75.0	\$1,304,315	\$62,110	23	82.1	21
Carpenter	744	208	28.0	417	56.0	601	80.8	\$21,444,129	\$35,681	661	88.8	492
Carpenter, Piledriver	117	41	35.0	53	45.3	88	75.2	\$3,850,460	\$43,755	98	83.8	64
Cement Mason	112	21	18.8	81	72.3	88	78.6	\$2,610,634	\$29,666	92	82.1	57
Child Care Dev. Specialist	26	7	26.9	19	73.1	19	73.1	\$437,230	\$23,012	23	88.5	7
CNA Dementia Specialty	3	2	66.7	1	33.3	1	33.3	n/d	n/d	3	100.0	0
Computer Operator	1	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	\$0	\$0	0	0.0	0
Construction Craft Laborer	557	211	37.9	302	54.2	442	79.4	\$17,953,855	\$40,620	498	89.4	334
Construction Driver	76	35	46.1	35	46.1	66	86.8	\$3,333,477	\$50,507	71	93.4	26
Construction Equip. Mechanic	1	0	0.0	1	100.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
Cook (Any Industry)	63	16	25.4	34	54.0	24	38.1	\$570,915	\$23,788	37	58.7	11
Cook (Hotel and Restaurant)	23	2	8.7	21	91.3	9	39.1	\$104,323	\$11,591	10	43.5	5
Cosmetologist	8	3	37.5	3	37.5	7	87.5	\$113,579	\$16,226	8	100.0	4
Dental Assistant	3	3	100.0	0	0.0	3	100.0	n/d	n/d	3	100.0	1
Diesel Mechanic	14	4	28.6	7	50.0	10	71.4	\$309,182	\$30,918	11	78.6	7
Direct Support Specialist	28	1	3.6	5	17.9	27	96.4	\$941,707	\$34,878	27	96.4	2
Dry Cleaner	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
Electric Meter Repairer	1	1	100.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
Electrician	1,682	355	21.1	863	51.3	1,411	83.9	\$71,899,478	\$50,956	1,533	91.1	1,224
Electrician, Locomotive	5	4	80.0	1	20.0	4	80.0	n/d	n/d	4	80.0	4
Electrician, Maintenance	5	2	40.0	2	40.0	5	100.0	\$351,713	\$70,343	5	100.0	5

1 A Detailed Profile of the Apprentices

Alaska, 1998 to 2009 (continued)

	No. Current and Former Apprentices	Number of Completers	Percentage Completers	Number Canceled	Percent Canceled	Number Employed in Alaska 2009	% Employed	Total Alaska Wages 2009	Average Wages 2009	No. Working or Residents of Alaska	% in Alaska	# of Emp. Working in Related Job
SELECTED APPRENTICESHIP OCCUPATIONS, continued												
Electronic Systems Tech.	2	0	0.0	2	100.0	1	50.0	n/d	n/d	1	50.0	0
Floor Layer	34	5	14.7	24	70.6	21	61.8	\$601,989	\$28,666	26	76.5	16
Glazier	104	39	37.5	57	54.8	73	70.2	\$2,966,418	\$40,636	90	86.5	61
Heating & Air Cond. Inst. Serv.	20	3	15.0	13	65.0	15	75.0	\$609,551	\$40,637	17	85.0	10
Insulation Worker	95	21	22.1	58	61.1	70	73.7	\$2,983,535	\$42,622	78	82.1	57
Line Erector	2	0	0.0	1	50.0	2	100.0	n/d	n/d	2	100.0	2
Line Maintainer	190	93	48.9	43	22.6	170	89.5	\$14,191,727	\$83,481	178	93.7	149
Lubrication Svcr Mtrls Disp Tech	21	7	33.3	14	66.7	21	100.0	\$665,824	\$31,706	21	100.0	15
Machinist	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
Maint. Mech. (Any Industry)	2	0	0.0	2	100.0	1	50.0	n/d	n/d	1	50.0	1
Maint. Mech. (Const, Petrol)	186	92	49.5	66	35.5	170	91.4	\$10,511,401	\$61,832	176	94.6	133
Maint. Repairer, Industrial	17	6	35.3	11	64.7	7	41.2	\$181,056	\$25,865	10	58.8	3
Maintenance Mechanic, Tele.	198	95	48.0	52	26.3	177	89.4	\$9,500,472	\$53,675	187	94.4	159
Maintenance Repairer, Build	274	41	15.0	189	69.0	201	73.4	\$4,646,302	\$23,116	248	90.5	142
Material Coordinator	25	1	4.0	24	96.0	13	52.0	\$550,284	\$42,330	18	72.0	9
Meat Cutter	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	1
Mechanic, Industrial Truck	2	0	0.0	1	50.0	2	100.0	n/d	n/d	2	100.0	2
Millwright	51	11	21.6	34	66.7	42	82.4	\$2,201,937	\$52,427	48	94.1	30
Nondestructive Tester	17	2	11.8	0	0.0	17	100.0	\$795,382	\$46,787	17	100.0	16
Office Manager/Admin Services	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	n/d	n/d	1	100.0	0
Operating Engineer	267	132	49.4	96	36.0	224	83.9	\$11,972,289	\$53,448	243	91.0	179
Optician, Dispensing	13	1	7.7	6	46.2	11	84.6	\$403,297	\$36,663	12	92.3	5
Painter (Const)	150	33	22.0	106	70.7	101	67.3	\$3,097,049	\$30,664	122	81.3	75
Painter, Shipyard	4	1	25.0	3	75.0	4	100.0	n/d	n/d	4	100.0	4
Pipe Fitter/Sprinkler Fitter	27	5	18.5	10	37.0	26	96.3	\$1,482,240	\$57,009	26	96.3	26
Pipe Fitter (Const)	260	79	30.4	107	41.2	226	86.9	\$12,201,155	\$53,987	240	92.3	194
Plasterer	40	4	10.0	34	85.0	26	65.0	\$926,550	\$35,637	32	80.0	16
Plumber	643	89	13.8	354	55.1	519	80.7	\$23,640,393	\$45,550	581	90.4	440
Power Plant Operator	6	2	33.3	2	33.3	6	100.0	\$466,685	\$77,781	6	100.0	5
Prospecting Driller (Petro)	28	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	92.9	\$471,187	\$18,123	28	100.0	13
Refrigeration Mech (Any Ind)	5	1	20.0	4	80.0	4	80.0	n/d	n/d	4	80.0	4
Residential Wireman	86	5	5.8	73	84.9	60	69.8	\$1,783,964	\$29,733	72	83.7	48
Roofer	145	9	6.2	110	75.9	95	65.5	\$2,632,074	\$27,706	115	79.3	67
Sheet Metal Worker	177	58	32.8	74	41.8	149	84.2	\$7,436,592	\$49,910	160	90.4	129
Stationary Engineer	2	2	100.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	n/d	n/d	2	100.0	1
Structural Steel/Ironworker	208	61	29.3	119	57.2	159	76.4	\$6,146,829	\$38,659	180	86.5	114
Surgical Technologist	9	6	66.7	3	33.3	9	100.0	\$346,424	\$38,492	9	100.0	7
Surveyor Assistant, Instru.	56	14	25.0	31	55.4	44	78.6	\$1,662,349	\$37,781	50	89.3	25
Tile Setter	5	1	20.0	3	60.0	4	80.0	n/d	n/d	5	100.0	3
Tree Trimmer (Line Clear)	11	4	36.4	6	54.5	9	81.8	\$287,294	\$31,922	11	100.0	4
Welder/fitter	6	0	0.0	6	100.0	4	66.7	n/d	n/d	5	83.3	1
Youth Development Practitioner	14	0	0.0	14	100.0	12	85.7	\$512,105	\$42,675	13	92.9	0
OCCUPATIONAL 2009 WORK STATUS												
Not working	1,360	181	13.3	1,078	79.3	0	0.0	\$0	\$0	600	44.1	0
Working in unrelated occupation	1,127	179	15.9	806	71.5	1,127	100.0	\$38,524,114	\$34,183	1,127	100.0	0
Working in same one-digit occupation as apprenticeship	4,446	1,503	33.8	1,741	39.2	4,446	100.0	\$214,534,005	\$48,253	4,446	100.0	4,446

Notes:
 This exhibit represents the apprentices who registered for their apprenticeship between January 1998 and December 2009.
 The abbreviation "n/d" means the data are not disclosable due to confidentiality restrictions.
¹"Resident" means someone who applied for an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend in 2009 or 2010.
²Occupation titles are from the List of Officially Recognized Apprenticeship Occupations from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship.
 Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship

Employment Scene

Unemployment rate at 7.4 percent in May

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May was 7.4 percent, up slightly from April's unchanged rate of 7.3 percent. The comparable national rate in May was 9.1 percent, up from the revised rate of 9.0 percent in April.

The unemployment rates for Alaska and the U.S. both remain below year-ago levels. During the past two months, the national jobless rate raised concern as it trended slightly upward. However, in May, 24 states reported rate decreases, 13 states' rates increased, and 13 did not change.

Alaska's rate lower than most

Alaska's jobless numbers remain better than average compared not only to the nation, but to many other states. In May, 31 states had higher rates than Alaska, 16 had lower rates, and two were identical. Nevada was the highest at 12.1 percent, and 3.2 percent in North Dakota was the lowest. Alaska's relatively healthy job market likely means more new job seekers, which puts some upward pressure on the state's unemployment rate.

Summer is kicking in

The not seasonally adjusted jobless rates were mixed around Alaska. In four of the six regions, unemployment fell as employment and economic activity followed their usual seasonal upswing. In the Denali Borough, home to Denali National Park, preparation for summer visitors dropped the jobless rate from 16.2 percent in April — one of the highest in the state — to 6.2 percent in May, one of the lowest. In Bristol Bay, the rate fell from 9.2 percent in April to 2.9 percent in May — the lowest in the state — as workers prepared to harvest and process fish for one of the world's largest salmon fisheries. The highest jobless rate was 21 percent in the Aleutians East Borough, where some groundfish seasons ended.

Alternative jobless measures

The unemployment rates released each month for the nation and individual states are sometimes criticized as not including everyone who should be counted as unemployed. That



sentiment is not without merit, but the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics produces "alternative measures of labor underutilization" monthly for the nation, and yearly for all states. These data include a broader definition of the unemployed and a more expansive view of the labor market, and are based on four quarters of data covering the second quarter of 2010 through the first quarter of 2011.

The BLS calculates six alternative measures. The most restrictive measure is U-1, which only includes those unemployed 15 weeks or longer. Alaska's U-1 rate was 3.1 percent in May. The broadest or least restrictive measure is U-6, which includes all unemployed plus all "marginally attached workers." These encompass all those surveyed who wanted to work, were available to work, and had looked for a job sometime in the prior 12 months but not during the past four weeks, which excluded them from the traditional jobless rate. The U-6 also includes part-time workers who wanted full-time work and weren't able to find it. This rate was 13.7 percent.

The U-3 is created in a similar way to the monthly jobless statistics, which count the unemployed who have tried to find work within the past four weeks. The difference is the U-3 is an average of four quarters. The U-3 rate was 7.6 percent — not much different from May's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate. The national rates ranged from a low of 5.6 percent for U-1 to 16.5 percent for U-6. The national U-3 number was 9.4 percent.

2 Statewide Employment

Nonfarm wage and salary

	Preliminary		Revised		Year-Over-Year Change		
	5/11	4/11	5/10	5/10	90% Confidence Interval		
Alaska							
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary¹	328,400	321,400	325,100	3,300	-4,083	10,683	
Goods-Producing ²	42,200	40,300	42,000	200	-2,684	3,084	
Service-Providing ³	286,200	281,100	283,100	3,100	-	-	
Mining and Logging	16,300	16,000	15,300	1,000	207	1,793	
Mining	15,900	15,600	15,000	900	-	-	
Oil and Gas	13,200	13,100	12,500	700	-	-	
Construction	15,900	14,500	16,400	-500	-3,083	2,083	
Manufacturing	10,000	9,800	10,300	-300	-1,294	694	
Seafood Processing	6,300	6,400	6,600	-300	-	-	
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	65,800	62,700	64,100	1,700	-672	4,072	
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,000	6,300	-100	-656	456	
Retail Trade	36,300	35,100	35,800	500	-1,528	2,528	
Food and Beverage Stores	6,100	6,100	6,300	-200	-	-	
General Merchandise Stores	10,000	10,000	9,900	100	-	-	
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	23,300	21,600	22,000	1,300	262	2,338	
Air Transportation	6,100	5,600	5,700	400	-	-	
Truck Transportation	3,300	3,300	3,200	100	-	-	
Information	6,500	6,400	6,300	200	-381	781	
Telecommunications	4,300	4,300	4,100	200	-	-	
Financial Activities	14,900	15,100	14,800	100	-1,843	2,043	
Professional and Business Services	26,400	26,100	26,300	100	-1,693	1,893	
Educational⁴ and Health Services	43,300	43,100	41,600	1,700	432	2,968	
Health Care	31,600	31,500	29,900	1,700	-	-	
Leisure and Hospitality	33,900	30,300	32,900	1,000	-1,037	3,037	
Accommodations	7,100	6,000	8,000	-900	-	-	
Food Services and Drinking Places	21,600	19,700	20,000	1,600	-	-	
Other Services	11,800	11,600	11,500	300	-2,876	3,476	
Government	83,600	85,800	85,600	-2,000	-	-	
Federal Government ⁵	17,200	16,700	18,700	-1,500	-	-	
State Government	25,200	26,700	25,200	0	-	-	
State Government Education ⁶	7,100	8,600	7,000	100	-	-	
Local Government	41,200	42,400	41,700	-500	-	-	
Local Government Education ⁷	23,900	25,500	24,000	-100	-	-	
Tribal Government	3,800	3,700	3,700	100	-	-	

4 Regional Employment

Nonfarm wage and salary

	Preliminary		Revised		Changes from		Percent Change		90% confidence interval	
	5/11	4/11	5/10	4/11	5/10	4/11	5/10	Low	High	
	Anch/Mat-Su	173,200	171,000	171,900	2,200	1,300	1.3%	0.8%	-2,252	4,852
Anchorage	151,800	149,750	151,350	2,050	450	1.4%	0.3%	-	-	

A dash means confidence intervals aren't available at this level.

¹Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers. For estimates of fish harvesting employment and other fisheries data, go to labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm.

²Goods-producing sectors include natural resources and mining, construction, and manufacturing.

³Service-providing sectors include all others not listed as goods-producing sectors.

⁴Private education only

⁵Excludes uniformed military

⁶Includes the University of Alaska

⁷Includes public school systems

Sources for Exhibits 1, 2, and 3: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sources for Exhibit 4: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Anchorage/Mat-Su

3 Unemployment Rates

Boroughs and census areas

	Prelim.			Revised		
	5/11	4/11	5/10	5/11	4/11	5/10
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED						
United States	9.1	9.0	9.6			
Alaska Statewide	7.4	7.3	8.0			
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED						
United States	8.7	8.7	9.3			
Alaska Statewide	7.4	7.7	7.7			
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	6.7	6.8	7.1			
Municipality of Anchorage	6.2	6.2	6.8			
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	8.5	9.0	8.4			
Gulf Coast Region	8.4	9.3	8.4			
Kenai Peninsula Borough	8.7	9.8	9.0			
Kodiak Island Borough	7.3	6.6	6.7			
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	8.1	9.9	7.4			
Interior Region	7.2	7.7	7.4			
Denali Borough	6.2	16.2	6.0			
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.5	6.7	6.8			
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	9.7	11.3	9.7			
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	15.2	16.4	14.8			
Northern Region	9.4	9.3	9.9			
Nome Census Area	12.3	12.1	13.1			
North Slope Borough	4.3	4.1	5.1			
Northwest Arctic Borough	14.6	15.0	14.0			
Southeast Region	6.5	7.4	6.7			
Haines Borough	7.0	9.5	7.8			
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ¹	13.2	19.2	12.2			
Juneau, City and Borough of	4.9	5.3	5.3			
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ¹	6.7	7.6	6.8			
Petersburg Census Area ¹	9.2	10.3	-			
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area ¹	13.2	14.5	-			
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA ¹	-	-	12.9			
Sitka, City and Borough of ¹	5.8	5.8	5.8			
Skagway, Municipality of ¹	4.4	15.9	2.3			
Wrangell, City and Borough of ¹	7.9	8.2	-			
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area ¹	-	-	9.4			
Yakutat, City and Borough of	9.6	12.3	9.5			
Southwest Region	14.4	13.5	13.5			
Aleutians East Borough	21.0	9.7	13.2			
Aleutians West Census Area	14.4	7.9	11.7			
Bethel Census Area	15.6	15.4	15.3			
Bristol Bay Borough	2.9	9.2	3.3			
Dillingham Census Area	10.7	10.6	10.1			
Lake and Peninsula Borough	8.3	10.5	7.5			
Wade Hampton Census Area	20.2	20.2	19.7			

¹ Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Municipality of Skagway and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area became available in 2010. Data for the City and Borough of Wrangell, Petersburg Census Area, and Prince of Wales-Hyder went into effect in January 2011. Prior to January, data were published for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area.

Changes in producing the estimates

Beginning with the production of preliminary estimates for March 2011, production of state and metropolitan area Current Employment Statistics estimates has transitioned from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Section to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Concurrent with this transition, the BLS implemented several changes to the methods to help standardize estimation across states. While these changes reduce the potential for statistical bias in state and metropolitan area estimates, they may increase month-to-month variability. More detailed information on the CES changes is available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm>.

For more current state and regional employment and unemployment data, visit our Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

Employer Resources

ACT WorkKeys® job profilers serve businesses throughout Alaska

The Department of Labor's two ACT WorkKeys® job profilers provide job analysis services to businesses statewide, helping employers find skilled workers and reduce employee turnover. Additional benefits of job profiling include more efficient recruiting and screening, improved training practices, and a detailed list of tasks, required skills, and skill levels for students and job seekers.

Job profiling is part of ACT WorkKeys®, the nation's leading job skills assessment system, which helps prepare job seekers and students for the workplace.

Job profilers develop accurate worker profiles through analyzing the tasks most critical to a job, and identifying skills and skill levels required for job entry and effective performance. Additional skills analysis may include teamwork, applied technology, writing, business writing, workplace observation, and listening.

WorkKeys® profiles completed in Alaska include office assistant, accounting clerk, inside wireman apprentice, plumber and pipefitter apprentice, direct support staff

in adult day services, phlebotomist, field service technician, and employment security specialist.

Alaska Job Centers proctor WorkKeys® assessments for students and job seekers, and provide Career-Ready101 courseware to prepare for the testing. As of the 2010-11 school year, all high school juniors are required to take WorkKeys® skill assessments in applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information. Students can obtain the National Career Readiness Certificate at the bronze, silver, gold, or platinum level.

Businesses can recognize, request, or require the NCRC. As of April, 8,936 students and 1,520 job seekers had obtained these certificates in Alaska.

For WorkKeys® job profiling details, contact Laurie Fuglvog at (907) 465-5926 or laurie.fuglvog@alaska.gov. Visit www.careerready.alaska.gov for an Alaska Career Ready and Job Profiling PowerPoint and a link to the ACT WorkKeys® Case Studies Web site, which illustrates the benefits of WorkKeys® and the NCRC.

A Safety Minute

OSHA warns of high formaldehyde levels in some hair straighteners

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a hazard alert in April, warning that widely used hair straightening products can increase the risk of serious health problems, including cancer. OSHA released the results of air monitoring in salons, which revealed high levels of formaldehyde — in some cases, the levels exceeded legal exposure limits.

"Workers have the right to know the risks associated with the chemicals with which they work, and how to protect themselves," said OSHA Assistant Secretary Dr. David Michaels in a statement.

OSHA stated in its alert that formaldehyde is a hazard and a cancer risk, whether in a product or in the air. That risk has been confirmed by the Environmental Protection Agency, and by a long-awaited report released in April by The National Academy of Sciences that determined formaldehyde is associated with cancer of the nose and throat in humans, and raises the risk of leukemia.

During one investigation, OSHA found formaldehyde that exceeded allowable limits in a product labeled "formaldehyde-free." GIB, LLC, the maker of the product Brazilian Blowout, was recently taken to court in California based on allegations that the product contains 8 percent formaldehyde by weight, and that the manufacturer failed to provide material safety data sheets to warn users about the chemical exposure risks.

To eliminate potential worker exposure, OSHA recommends salon owners avoid products that contain formaldehyde, methylene glycol, formalin, methylene oxide, paraform, formic aldehyde, methanal, oxomethane, oxymethylene, or Chemical Abstract Service Number 50-00-0.

For more information, see http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/formaldehyde/hazard_alert.html.