

ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

JUNE 2014



Alaska Population Projections 2012 to 2042

WHAT'S INSIDE
Alaskans who live alone



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Sean Parnell, Governor
Dianne Blumer, Commissioner**

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Preparing Alaska's 'talent pipeline' for current, future jobs



**By Dianne Blumer,
Commissioner**



Follow the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development on Facebook (facebook.com/alaskalabor) and Twitter (twitter.com/alaskalabor) for the latest news about jobs, workplace safety, and workforce development.

This month's *Trends* presents population projections for Alaska from 2012 to 2042. Alaska's population has grown faster than the nation's for more than 20 years. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Section predicts the state will add almost 200,000 residents by 2042.

Also in this issue, a look at Alaska jobs and unemployment. Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was 6.4 percent, down from March's 6.6 percent and near the all-time low of 5.9 percent.

A decline in the April national rate to 6.3 percent pushed it below Alaska's for the first time in 65 months, which shouldn't be misinterpreted to mean that the U.S. economy is now healthier than Alaska's. Alaska's unemployment rates historically run higher than the U.S. rates when both economies are similarly healthy in terms of job growth and other indicators.

Alaska is one of only 15 states that has more jobs today than at the onset of the economic recession in 2007. Alaska had 21 years of job growth between 1988 and 2008. The recession did take a toll in 2009. However, Alaska's economy has been on a moderate growth trajectory and, unlike the U.S., recovered from recession-related job losses by 2010.

Much of the job growth has been generated by resource development. In this decade alone, Alaska will need 7,500 trained, highly skilled oil and gas workers to meet current industry demand.

Whether it's billions in investment and new exploration spurred by SB 21, the More Alaska Production Act, production projects such as Point Thomson construction, or the rebirth of the Cook Inlet basin, Alaska's booming oil and gas sector requires highly trained Alaska workers.

Further, mega projects like the Alaska LNG Project or the Alaska Stand Alone Project

and Donlin Gold will add thousands more jobs.

This spring, Gov. Sean Parnell and the Alaska Legislature laid the groundwork for the Alaska LNG Project with the passage of Senate Bill 138. During construction, this project is expected to provide upwards of 15,000 jobs.

The Parnell Administration is focusing on workforce development that includes a combination of education, training, and timing. The system must be finely calibrated to prepare work-ready Alaskans as increased demand is emerging.

Last summer I asked a group of oil and gas industry leaders, aided by education and training advisers and supported by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, to update Alaska's Oil and Gas Workforce Development Plan.

The result of their efforts was published in May. An essential first step in creating agreement about priorities, the plan lays out what must be done to fine-tune Alaska's oil and gas workforce development system. It also addresses several key industry issues, such as priority occupations, Alaska's talent pipeline and education, training and education incentives, and trends in Alaska's oil and gas industry.

Middle and high school students across Alaska will compose much of the workforce for these future mega projects.

With more than 270 professions essential to the oil and gas industry, it's clear that training for these occupations is not a one-size-fits-all solution, and the plan addresses and identifies the varying priority occupations and career pathways.

Everyone loves a comeback story, and Alaska's is just beginning. Let's continue working together to build a bright future for all Alaskans. The plan is available online at Labor.Alaska.Gov/OilandGasPlan.

Alaska Population Projections

2012 to 2042



Alaska’s population has expanded at a relatively fast pace over the past two decades, with typical growth of over 1 percent a year compared to less than three-quarters of a percent for the nation as a whole. Much of the state’s recent growth has been due to its relatively young population and high birth rates.

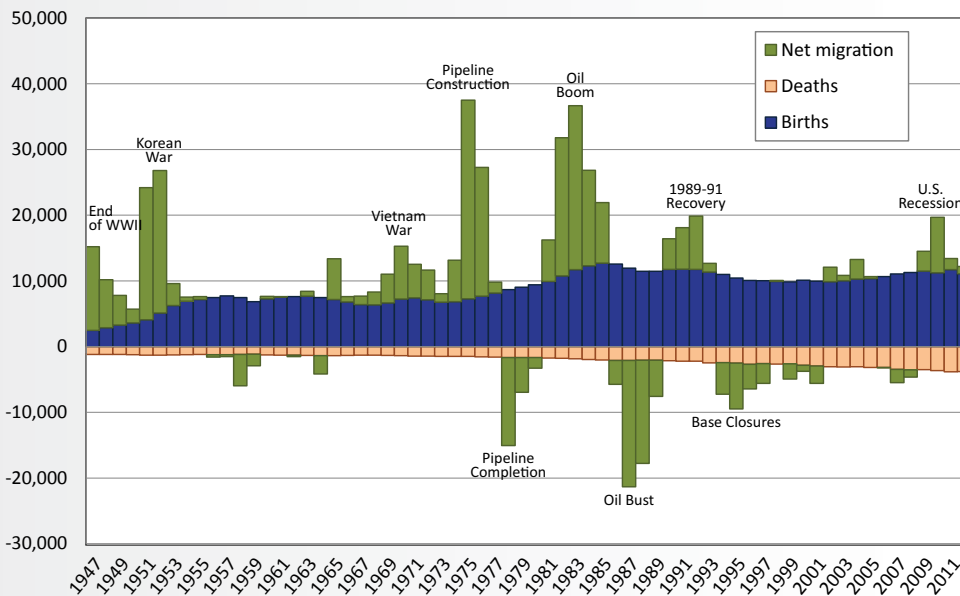
Based on Alaska’s age structure and assuming little change in rates of fertility, mortality, and migration, the state is projected to continue to grow faster than the Lower 48 and add nearly 200,000 people between 2012 and 2042. Though these total projections are uncertain, three things about the future Alaska are fairly sure: it will be larger, older, and more heavily centered in the Railbelt region — Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Bor-

ough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Less volatility in recent decades

While the first three decades of Alaska’s statehood were punctuated by booms and busts due to the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and fluctuations in oil prices and oil revenue, the population has been much less volatile over the past two decades. In the early 1990s, between 35,000 and 50,000 people moved to the state each year, and 35,000 to 50,000 moved out. Though certain years had meaningful imbalances of in- and out-movers, they were on a small scale and none were due to any single event. (See Exhibit 1.)

1 Alaska’s Population Changes 1947 to 2012



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

In considering Alaska migration, it’s important to note the state gains young working-age people overall each year through moves, and loses older people. This reinforces population growth because young workers often bring children or will eventually have them.

Though net-migration’s ups and downs have been relatively minor since the 1990s, even small, long-term differences can affect the projected numbers significantly. To account for this, the projections include three migration scenarios. The “baseline” scenario, considered most likely, uses a net migration rate of 0, meaning those moving in and out each year are equal. The “high” and “low” scenarios use net-migration rates of 1 and -0.5

percent. These scenarios use unchanged fertility and mortality rates. (See Exhibit 2.)

The projections don't account for any large economic projects or events that would change these trends, though major economic changes can happen unexpectedly, as the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay demonstrated.

Births to increase

Over the last 20 years, fertility rates stayed fairly steady at around 2.3 to 2.4 children per woman — higher than the national rate of 2 to 2.1. Along with the age structure of the population, this yielded around 10,000 to 11,000 births each year — a major factor in Alaska's population growth.

For the 2012 to 2042 period, projections held fertility rates at 2.3 children per woman. With age structure and migration, this produced an increase in annual births over time. In the baseline scenario, births would be less than 12,000 annually in the first years of the projections and close to 14,000 per year by 2042.

Deaths to increase more

Though mortality rates have decreased for the state, the aging of Alaska's population means the numbers of annual deaths have increased regularly. Over the last 20 years, annual deaths have risen from less than 2,500 to nearly 4,000, which has slowed overall population growth.

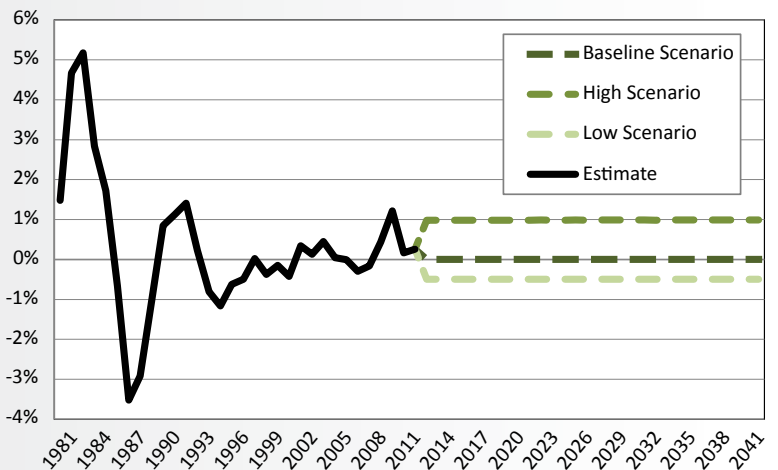
Mortality rates are projected to steadily decline, but due to further population aging, yearly deaths are projected to roughly double to more than 8,000 by 2042. Of the three components of population change — births, deaths, and migration — death rates are the most certain.

Many more Alaskans

With an aging population and an increase in the ratio of deaths to births, Alaska's projected growth will slow somewhat; regardless, all three scenarios project population gains through natural increase alone (births minus deaths). (See Exhibit 3.) The baseline scenario puts Alaska's population at 806,479 in 2022, 868,902 in 2032, and 925,042 in 2042.

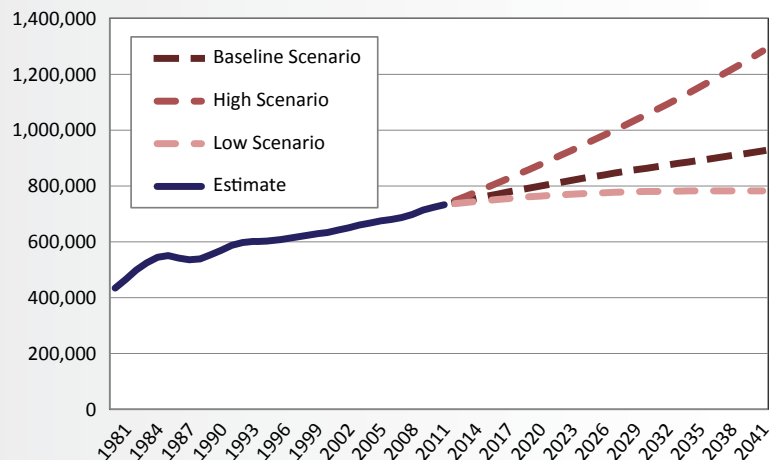
With time, though, the different scenarios for

2 Net Migration and Possible Scenarios Alaska, between 1980 and 2042



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

3 Alaska's Population Pattern Between 1980 and 2042



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

Alaska's net-migration lead to greater differences between projected populations. One thing is clear when looking at the three scenarios by age: as the "baby boomers" (born between 1946 and 1964) age, Alaska's senior population will grow at a faster rate. There's considerably more uncertainty about the population yet to be born, which is heavily affected by migration and fertility rates. (See Exhibit 4.)

Alaska's median age is projected to rise at a steady

pace, from 34.1 to 35.5, but to stay lower than that of the nation as a whole. The number of males per 100 females, which was around 130 at statehood, was 108 in 2012 and is expected to drop further, to 103 by 2042.

More young and old

Alaska's youngest population, ages 0 to 4, is projected to increase by 26 percent, or nearly 15,000 people, between 2012 and 2042. The population ages 5 to 17 is projected to add more than 35,000 people — an increase of 27 percent. With the last of the large “echo boom” cohort (the children of the baby boomers) moving into adulthood, increases in Alaska's youth population are projected to be moderate at first, then accelerate as the echo boomers reach high-fertility ages. (See Exhibit 5.)

People between 18 and 64 represent the working-age population. This group numbered just under 480,000 in 2012 and is projected to reach approximately 545,000 in 2042, a 14 percent increase. As the baby boomers continue to pass age 65, the echo boomers will continue moving past 18, yielding little change in the size of the working-age population in the first half of the projections. In the latter half of the projections, though, growth for this group is expected to increase. (See Exhibit 6.)

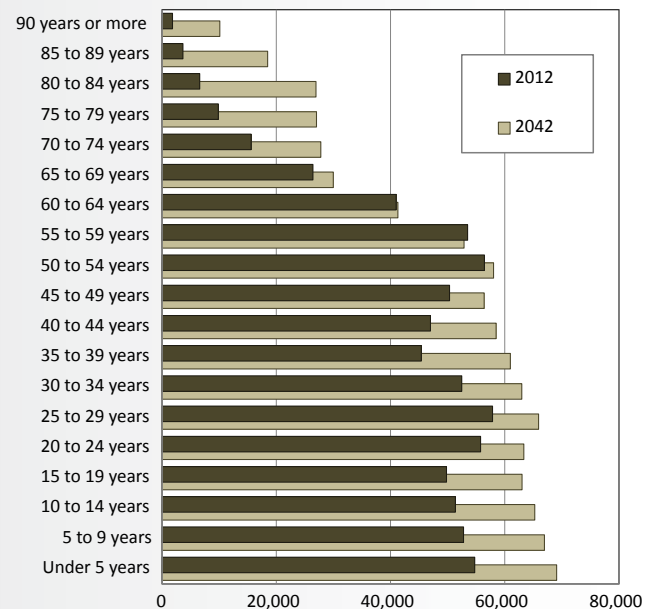
Fueled by the large cohort of aging baby boomers, the population aged 65 or more is projected to grow at a faster rate than any other age group. Largely made up of retirees, Alaska's current 65+ population is around 65,000 and is projected to more than double by 2042, passing 140,000. That's an increase of 120 percent. Near the end of the projection period, all of the baby boomers will be well past 65, causing some decline. (See Exhibit 7.)

Higher dependency ratios

More young and old people will mean higher dependency ratios for Alaska. In 2012, for every 100 Alaskans ages 18 to 64, there were 40 people under 18 and 13 people age 65 and up. Both these figures are projected to increase over the next 30 years.

Alaska's youth dependency ratio is projected to

4 Population by Age Group Alaska, 2012 and 2042



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

rise to 44 by 2022 and 46 by 2032, and then drop back to 44 in 2042. The aged dependency ratio is projected to reach 24 in 2022, then 29 in 2032 before declining to 26 in 2042.

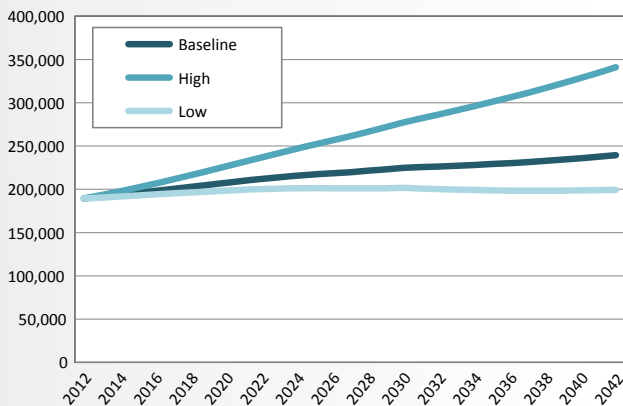
Gains for Native population

The Alaska Native population is projected to grow by more than 38,000 people, or 31 percent, between 2012 and 2042 and to maintain roughly the same share of Alaska's population over the period. (See Exhibit 9.) The Native population has consistently high birth rates, which contribute significantly to growth.

Annual births and deaths for Alaska Natives are both projected to increase over the projection period, but with births consistently higher. In contrast, migration is just a small part of Native population change, and the net migration rate is projected to be -0.5 percent annually over the period — easily overcome by population gains from natural increase.

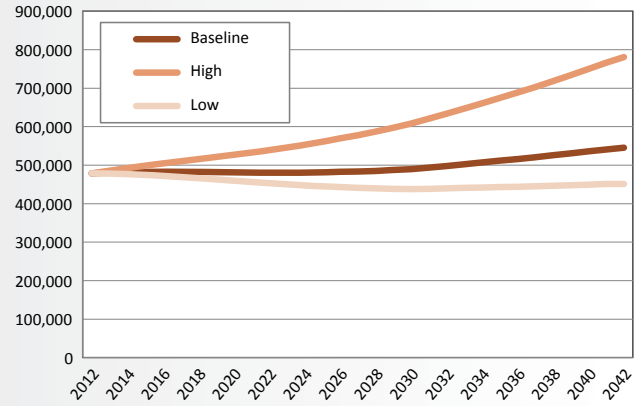
Similar to Alaska as a whole, the Alaska Native population aged 65 and older is projected to grow rapidly, increasing by nearly 140 percent over the projection period from about 8,600 (7 percent of

5 Population Ages 0 to 17 Alaska, 2012 to 2042



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

6 Population Ages 18 to 64 Alaska, 2012 to 2042



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

all ages) in 2012 to more than 20,000 in 2042 (13 percent of all ages).

Regions are tough to predict

Projections vary greatly around the state based on differing rates of change over the past decade. Projections are particularly uncertain for regions, boroughs, and census areas, as smaller areas are more volatile and individual events can have a much larger effect on the numbers. These areas are also subject to an additional factor: in-state migration.

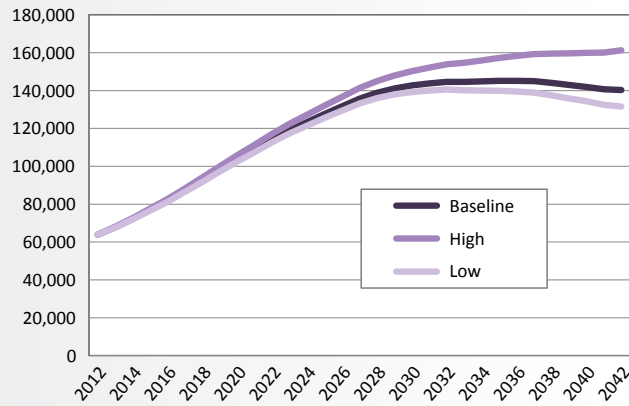
What's somewhat clear is that Alaska's population will become more heavily concentrated in the largest population centers, and the Railbelt region is expected to grow more than the rest of the state.

Most growth in Anchorage, Mat-Su

While the projections show no change in the size-ordering of region populations over the projection period, the strongest growth by far is projected for Anchorage/Mat-Su. Altogether, projections show Anchorage/Mat-Su growing by nearly 140,000 people, a 35 percent increase, from roughly 390,000 in 2012 to more than 530,000 in 2042. Projected gains for the region are split pretty evenly between the two areas numerically, though the percent increase will be noticeably larger for Mat-Su. (See Exhibit 10.)

Projections for the Mat-Su Borough alone show an increase of more than 75 percent, starting at

7 Population Age 65-Plus Alaska, 2012 to 2042



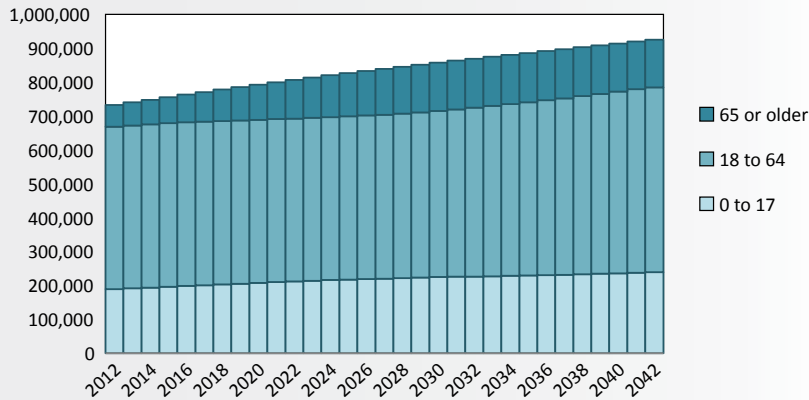
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

just over 93,000 in 2012 and reaching more than 165,000 people by 2042. Though net-migration gains have tapered some for the borough over the last decade, Mat-Su remains the one area with consistent gains through both natural increase and net-migration, and that's projected to continue.

Gains for greater Fairbanks and Delta Junction areas

Driven by strong growth for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the nearby Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, which includes communities near Delta Junction, the Interior region has grown

8 Population by Select Age Groups 2012 to 2042



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

steadily over recent years, and it is projected to grow more — by about 34,000 people between 2012 and 2042. It’s important to note that changes to the military population are unpredictable and can have a large effect on both of these areas.

The Interior Region also covers Denali Borough and Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area. These areas’ composition is projected to shift with population aging, but with little change in total population.

Births lead Northern and Southwest growth

Through high birth rates, the Northern and Southwest regions of the state are projected

Continued on page 16

How we created these projections

Instead of forecasting economic conditions, these projections are based on population age structure and historical trends in each of the components of population change: birth rates, death rates, and migration.

Specifically, we aged the population forward in time, added projected births and in-migrants, then subtracted deaths and out-migrants. We carried out this process for each of the three migration scenarios — baseline, low, and high — and for the Alaska Native population and each borough and census area.

Further information and a full report are available at laborstats.alaska.gov. Click “Population and Census,” then “Alaska Population Projections.”

9 Alaska Native Population by Age 2012 to 2042

Age	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037	2042
Birth to 4	12,603	14,090	14,023	13,939	14,330	15,222	16,195
5 to 9	11,696	11,991	13,476	13,411	13,329	13,721	14,612
10 to 14	11,387	12,554	12,849	14,333	14,269	14,188	14,581
15 to 19	10,799	10,332	11,496	11,793	13,272	13,211	13,133
20 to 24	10,558	8,676	8,217	9,375	9,676	11,147	11,091
25 to 29	9,496	9,969	8,124	7,679	8,826	9,131	10,587
30 to 34	7,914	10,372	10,846	9,039	8,608	9,742	10,050
35 to 39	6,746	7,537	9,959	10,434	8,663	8,245	9,368
40 to 44	6,503	6,507	7,286	9,661	10,137	8,410	8,009
45 to 49	7,705	6,291	6,302	7,068	9,393	9,867	8,189
50 to 54	7,576	7,454	6,107	6,127	6,874	9,129	9,601
55 to 59	6,476	7,491	7,387	6,115	6,145	6,871	9,045
60 to 64	4,894	6,044	7,013	6,930	5,743	5,783	6,483
65 to 69	3,171	4,490	5,561	6,470	6,410	5,328	5,379
70 to 74	2,227	2,762	3,919	4,870	5,687	5,654	4,724
75 to 79	1,556	1,804	2,246	3,191	3,980	4,668	4,662
80 to 84	947	1,119	1,301	1,629	2,318	2,907	3,427
85 to 89	468	534	639	749	947	1,356	1,714
90+	222	199	232	284	338	434	633
Total	122,944	130,216	136,983	143,097	148,945	155,014	161,483

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

10 Populations by Borough or Census Area

Alaska, 2012 to 2042

								2012 to 2042	
	2012	2017	2022	2027	2032	2037	2042	Percent Change	Growth Rate
Alaska	732,298	770,417	806,479	839,191	868,902	897,034	925,042	26%	0.8%
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	392,643	418,965	444,457	468,313	490,485	511,276	531,209	35%	1.0%
Anchorage, Municipality	298,842	313,348	326,612	338,059	347,870	356,584	364,871	22%	0.7%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	93,801	105,617	117,845	130,254	142,615	154,692	166,338	77%	1.9%
Gulf Coast Region	80,750	83,321	85,517	87,147	88,162	88,729	89,067	10%	0.3%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	56,756	59,225	61,391	63,116	64,321	65,098	65,647	16%	0.5%
Kodiak Island Borough	14,041	14,245	14,402	14,479	14,473	14,460	14,435	3%	0.1%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,953	9,851	9,724	9,552	9,368	9,171	8,985	-10%	-0.3%
Interior Region	115,114	121,969	128,363	134,073	139,238	144,166	149,162	30%	0.9%
Denali Borough	1,871	1,848	1,806	1,771	1,720	1,661	1,609	-14%	-0.5%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	100,343	106,822	112,843	118,191	123,018	127,560	132,030	32%	0.9%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,218	7,885	8,553	9,184	9,799	10,425	11,112	54%	1.4%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,682	5,414	5,161	4,927	4,701	4,520	4,411	-22%	-0.8%
Northern Region	27,312	27,953	28,565	29,193	30,006	31,143	32,680	20%	0.6%
Nome Census Area	9,869	10,283	10,688	11,103	11,597	12,211	12,997	32%	0.9%
North Slope Borough	9,727	9,638	9,544	9,465	9,460	9,563	9,757	0%	0.0%
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,716	8,032	8,333	8,625	8,949	9,369	9,926	29%	0.8%
Southeast Region	74,423	74,863	74,849	74,384	73,511	72,419	71,170	-4%	-0.1%
Haines Borough	2,620	2,679	2,716	2,736	2,735	2,707	2,649	1%	0.0%
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,210	2,112	1,999	1,883	1,764	1,644	1,534	-31%	-1.2%
Juneau, City and Borough	32,832	33,419	33,839	34,045	34,042	33,879	33,617	2%	0.1%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,938	13,938	13,843	13,644	13,369	13,071	12,762	-8%	-0.3%
Petersburg Borough	3,269	3,197	3,097	2,989	2,850	2,709	2,574	-21%	-0.8%
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	6,439	6,399	6,324	6,241	6,159	6,098	6,027	-6%	-0.2%
Sitka, City and Borough	9,084	9,084	9,020	8,893	8,724	8,520	8,300	-9%	-0.3%
Skagway Municipality	961	986	1,015	1,021	1,014	1,013	1,005	5%	0.1%
Wrangell, City and Borough	2,448	2,451	2,431	2,393	2,347	2,298	2,243	-8%	-0.3%
Yakutat, City and Borough	622	598	565	539	507	480	459	-26%	-1.0%
Southwest Region	42,056	43,346	44,728	46,081	47,500	49,301	51,754	23%	0.7%
Aleutians East Borough	3,227	3,213	3,201	3,187	3,169	3,140	3,120	-3%	-0.1%
Aleutians West Census Area	5,881	5,868	5,862	5,844	5,798	5,727	5,639	-4%	-0.1%
Bethel Census Area	17,600	18,404	19,246	20,103	21,040	22,200	23,696	35%	1.0%
Bristol Bay Borough	987	961	933	897	851	818	779	-21%	-0.8%
Dillingham Census Area	4,988	5,027	5,066	5,104	5,151	5,221	5,341	7%	0.2%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,673	1,703	1,732	1,742	1,746	1,751	1,779	6%	0.2%
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,700	8,170	8,688	9,204	9,745	10,444	11,400	48%	1.3%

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

Alaskans Who Live Alone

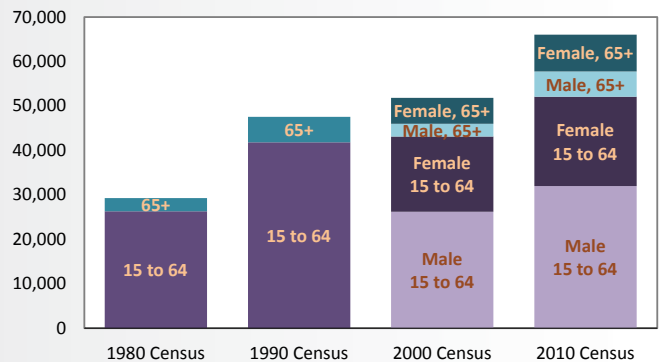
Demographics of single-person households

More than 65,000 Alaskans live alone, representing 10 percent of the overall population and a quarter of households. Though for some this might conjure images of a cabin-dwelling sourdough or a researcher at a remote outpost, most who live on their own are a diverse group living mainly in the state's population centers.

Still, some demographic characteristics stand out, including that more men live alone and that the rate of living alone increases with age.

Since 1980, the share of Alaskans living alone has grown by just 2 percent, but the composition of the group has shifted, with an increasing percentage age 65 or older. (See Exhibit 1.)

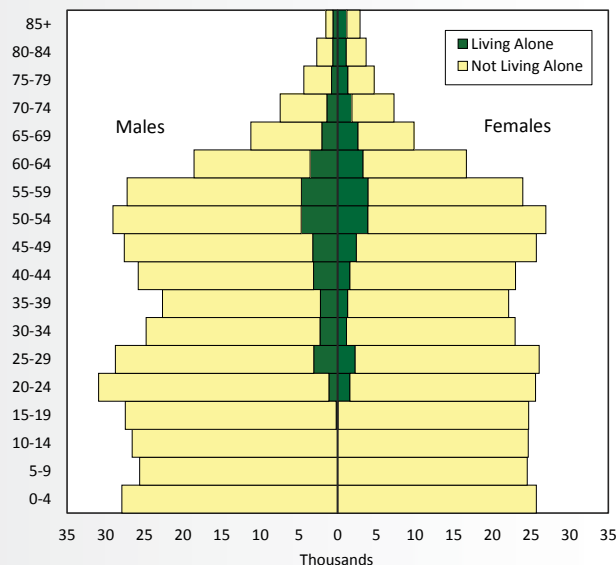
1 More People Live By Themselves Alaska, 1980 to 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

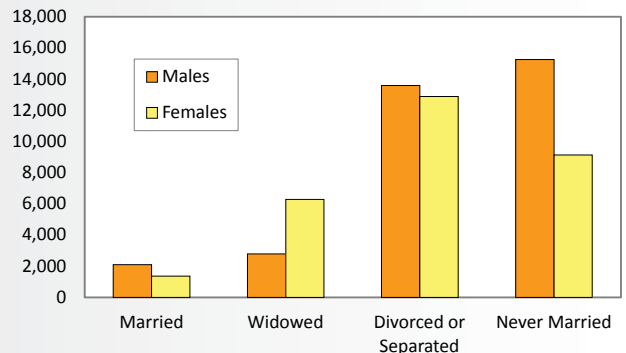
About 25 percent of seniors live alone compared to just 9 percent of the population as a whole — and because Alaska's 65-plus population is on a rapid rise, the state will likely have more single-person households in the future.

2 Living Alone, by Age and Sex Alaska, 2008 to 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 to 2012 American Community Survey

3 Mainly Divorced, Never Married Alaskans living alone, 2008 to 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 to 2012 American Community Survey

4 Living Alone Around the State

Boroughs and census areas, 2010

Area Name	Total Population 2010 Census	Total Households 2010 Census	Population Living Alone (1-Person Households) 2010 Census	Population % Living Alone* 2010 Census	% One-Person Households* 2010 Census
Alaska	710,231	258,058	66,073	9%	26%
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	380,821	139,156	33,867	9%	24%
Anchorage, Municipality	291,826	107,332	26,761	9%	25%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	31,824	7,106	8%	22%
Gulf Coast Region	78,628	30,757	8,627	11%	28%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,400	22,161	6,336	11%	29%
Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	4,630	1,023	8%	22%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,636	3,966	1,268	13%	32%
Interior Region	112,024	42,031	11,494	10%	27%
Denali Borough	1,826	806	283	15%	35%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	97,581	36,441	9,728	10%	27%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,029	2,567	704	10%	27%
Yukon Koyukuk Census Area	5,588	2,217	779	14%	35%
Northern Region	26,445	6,763	1,543	6%	23%
Nome Census Area	9,492	2,815	662	7%	24%
North Slope Borough	9,430	2,029	478	5%	24%
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,523	1,919	403	5%	21%
Southeast Region	71,664	28,651	8,136	11%	28%
Haines Borough	2,508	1,149	364	15%	32%
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,150	913	283	13%	31%
Juneau, City and Borough	31,275	12,187	3,280	10%	27%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,477	5,305	1,478	11%	28%
Petersburg Census Area	3,815	1,599	467	12%	29%
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	5,559	2,194	655	12%	30%
Sitka, City and Borough	8,881	3,545	1,028	12%	29%
Skagway Borough, Municipality	968	436	146	15%	33%
Wrangell, City and Borough	2,369	1,053	343	14%	33%
Yakutat, City and Borough	662	270	92	14%	34%
Southwest Region	40,649	10,700	2,406	6%	22%
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	553	147	5%	27%
Aleutians West Census Area	5,561	1,212	393	7%	32%
Bethel Census Area	17,013	4,651	939	6%	20%
Bristol Bay Borough	997	423	137	14%	32%
Dillingham Census Area	4,847	1,563	400	8%	26%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,631	553	127	8%	23%
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,459	1,745	263	4%	15%

*For living alone percentages, the denominator is the population. For one-person household percentages, the denominator is households.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Many are in their 50s

Alaskans in their 50s make up more than a quarter of those who live by themselves. They are part of the large cohort of baby boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, who also make up a large share of Alaska's total population. (See Exhibit 2.)

With the increasing tendency to live alone with age, the baby boomers' children — another large cohort — will also someday make up a much larger share of the living-alone population.

There's also a smaller, temporary living-alone peak among those in their mid-to-late 20s. This age group lives alone at a rate of 10 percent, often as

5 Income and Poverty Levels by Household Type Alaska, 2008 to 2012

	Alaska		United States	
	All Household Types	Living Alone	All Household Types	Living Alone
All ages				
Population	711,139	64,130	309,138,716	31,625,793
Households	252,991	64,130	115,226,802	31,625,793
Median household income	\$69,917	\$37,553	\$53,046	\$27,992
Average ratio of rent to household income (renters)	35%	40%	39%	42%
Average ratio of owner costs to household income (owners)	25%	32%	27%	34%
Population below poverty level	10%	11%	15%	19%
Age 65 and older				
Population	54,443	13,622	39,358,913	10,967,142
Households with householder age 65 or more	33,843	13,622	25,172,128	10,967,142
Median household income	\$47,979	\$27,031*	\$36,181	\$21,173*
Average ratio of rent to household income (renters)	38%	42%	44%	47%
Average ratio of owner costs to household income (owners)	24%	33%	26%	33%
Population below poverty level	5%	10%	9%	18%

Notes: All income figures are estimates in 2012 inflation-adjusted dollars. This table has been updated from the print edition.

*Weighted average of median household income by sex

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 to 2012 American Community Survey

they're beginning their careers, compared to more than 20 percent at high ages. For people in their 30s, the rate drops a couple of percentage points.

Between 2000 and 2010, more 25-to-34-year-olds in Alaska and nationwide lived with their parents, which likely muted that temporary peak.

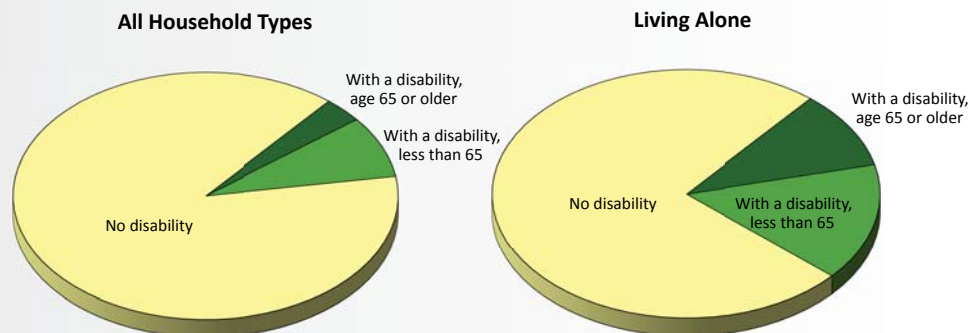
Differences between men and women

From ages 15 to 25, men and women live alone

at roughly equivalent rates. In the next age group, 25 to 49, men live alone at a higher rate — 3 to 5 percent higher — largely because women are more likely to be single parents.

People who have never married or who are divorced or separated make up the lion's share of Alaskans living by themselves (see Exhibit 3). And because women are more likely to live with children, Alaskans living alone who have never married or are divorced/separated are more likely to be male.

6 Age and Disability by Household Type Alaska, 2008 to 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 to 2012 American Community Survey

Widowed women are also a substantial share of one-person households, due in part to women's longer life expectancies and the fact that husbands tend to be a bit older than their wives.

As Alaska ages, we will no doubt have more widows and widowers, though widowers are more likely to remarry. By age 65, women live alone at a 5 to 10 percent higher rate than men.

Higher rates in Denali, Haines, and Skagway

Though in terms of numbers most people who live alone are in the state's more populated areas — mainly Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough — small communities in the Denali, Haines, and Skagway boroughs have the highest rates of living alone in the state as of 2010, at 15 percent each. It's also notable that areas with the lowest rates of one-person households are small as well, including the remote regions of Southwest and Northern Alaska. (See Exhibit 4.)

The key difference between these areas' extremes is age structure — the Denali, Haines, and Skagway boroughs have many people age 50 or more and the Southwest and Northern regions have a lot of children.

Among the broader economic regions, the Southeast, Gulf Coast, and Interior led with the highest shares of one-person households.

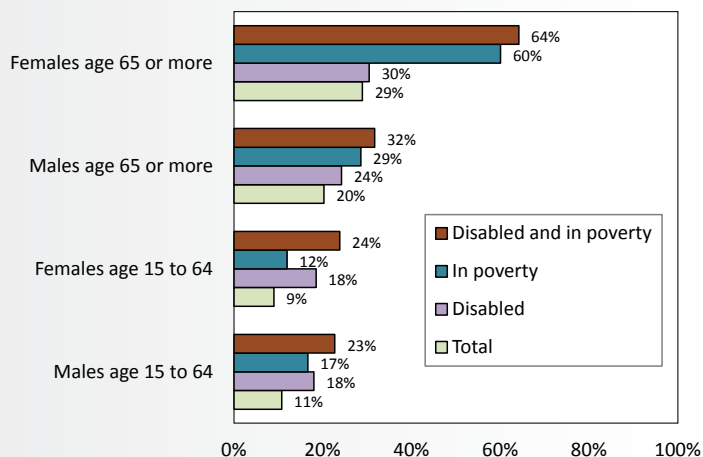
Income and poverty levels

The median household income for Alaskans who lived alone was less than \$38,000 per year, compared to nearly \$70,000 per year for all households. (See Exhibit 5.) One-person households support fewer people, though — the average number of people per household in Alaska is 2.7, and without counting single-person homes it's more than 3.5 — so per capita incomes for those who live alone are higher than for the overall population.

Because they don't share living costs, those who live alone in Alaska tend to spend more of their income on rent, at 40 percent compared to just 35 percent for all renters. Among homeowners, the average ratio of owner costs to income was 32 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

7 Most Poor, Senior Women Live Alone

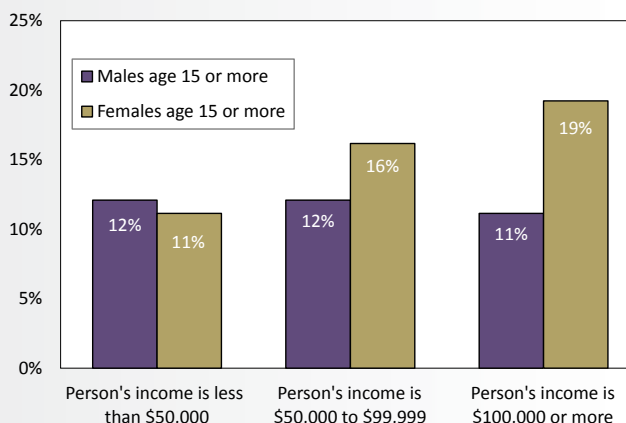
Alaskans living alone, 2008 to 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 to 2012 American Community Survey

8 Income and Living Alone

Alaska, by gender, 2008 to 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 to 2012 American Community Survey

As of 2008 to 2012, single-person households had a poverty rate just 1 percent higher than the Alaska average, at 11 percent versus 10 percent. The difference is more pronounced among seniors, however. For those 65 and older, 10 percent who live alone were in poverty versus 5 percent for all seniors.

Living alone is particularly common among poor women. Sixty percent of women age 65 or more who were in poverty lived alone between 2008

and 2012 (see Exhibit 7), which is in line with national estimates. This is more than double the rate for male seniors in poverty, more than double the rate for all women 65 or older, and six times the rate of the overall population — also trends that hold nationally.

On the other end of the spectrum, among the higher income brackets shown in Exhibit 8, the rate of living alone increases for women but remains about the same for men. This also follows the nation's pattern.

Many who live alone have a disability

Based on the 2008-2012 data, 13 percent of Alaskans have a disability, and 34 percent of people who live alone have a disability. (See Exhibit 6.) More than 70 percent of the disabled population was age 65 or older, so the disparity is at least partly attributable to single-person households being older overall — no one younger than 15 was counted as living alone, and well over half of Alaskans who live alone are 50 or older.

Conversely, people with disabilities are more likely than average to live alone, particularly those between 15 and 64. Eighteen percent in this age group who have disabilities lived alone compared to around 10 percent of that entire age group.

Employment doesn't differ much

People who live alone participate in the labor force at about the same rate as the overall population. According to the 2008 to 2012 data, roughly one-third were outside the labor force, meaning they were neither working nor looking for work.

The reasons for people being out of the labor force were likely quite different, though. People living alone, by definition, don't have roommates, spouses, or parents with whom they live to help cover household expenses. Because a larger share of people living alone are past traditional working ages, however, they are more likely to be retired and living on savings, Social Security, or other benefits.

More Jobs Than Before Recession

Alaska is one of 15 states above its 2007 level

Alaska's employment grew uninterrupted for 21 years between 1988 and 2008, five years longer than any other continuous stretch of growth in the state's history. The last major growth stretch was between 1961 and 1976.

Beginning in 1990, each year represented a new high-water mark for employment in Alaska. Then in 2009, the national recession finally reached Alaska and employment fell by 0.4 percent.

One year later, employment in Alaska grew enough to more than recoup the 2009 loss and once again, employment in the state reached a new record. North Dakota was the only other state that could make that claim that year.

In contrast, at the end of 2010, the nation was still more than 7 million jobs short of where it had been at the end of 2007. The two stories could hardly have been more different at the time.

Each year since 2010, employment in Alaska has grown enough to reach a new high and it appears 2014 is headed in that direction as well.

As the national recovery gains traction, additional states that have recovered their recession-related losses are added to the list. As of March

1 States With More Jobs* Higher now than in 2007

Alaska
Colorado
Iowa
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Minnesota
Montana
Nebraska
New York
North Dakota
Oklahoma
South Dakota
Texas
Utah
Washington

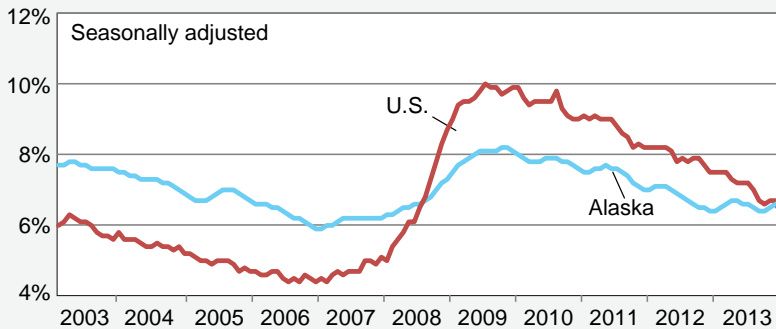
*As of March 2014

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

2014, 15 states were in that category. (See Exhibit 1.) All states are in some stage of economic recovery, but most are still below what they were seven years ago. Many of these states still have a lot of ground left to recover.

Employment Scene

1 Unemployment Rates January 2003 to April 2014



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

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Continued from page 8

to continue growing despite somewhat strong net losses through migration. The Northern region is projected to grow by more than 5,300, a 20 percent increase, while Southwest is projected to add 9,700 people from 2012 to 2042.

Few gains for Gulf Coast and Southeast

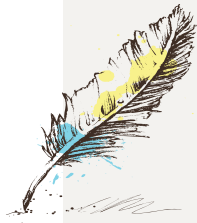
The Gulf Coast region, which covers Kenai Peninsula as well as Kodiak Island, and the Prince William Sound and Copper River (Valdez-Cordova Census Area) areas are projected to add a little more than 8,300 people between 2012 and 2042 for a 10 percent gain. Most of the projected growth is for Kenai Peninsula Borough.

The only region projected to lose population is Southeast. Small migration losses and lower birth rates show a population drop of 3,250 people between 2012 and 2042. This could change, though, as Southeast has seen some gains from migration in recent years. Little change in total population is projected for Juneau, which is the region's hub and the state capital.

2 Unemployment Rates Boroughs and census areas

	Prelim.	Revised	
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	4/14	3/14	4/13
United States	6.3	6.7	7.5
Alaska Statewide	6.4	6.6	6.4
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	5.9	6.8	7.1
Alaska Statewide	6.5	7.3	6.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.5	6.1	5.6
Municipality of Anchorage	5.0	5.4	5.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7.3	8.5	7.4
Gulf Coast Region	7.4	8.5	7.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	7.6	8.8	7.7
Kodiak Island Borough	4.9	5.2	5.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9.2	11.5	9.5
Interior Region	6.6	7.5	6.9
Denali Borough	14.9	18.7	16.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.5	6.2	5.9
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	11.5	13.5	11.0
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	15.6	17.2	14.6
Northern Region	9.4	10.1	9.4
Nome Census Area	11.8	12.4	11.7
North Slope Borough	4.0	4.3	4.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	16.2	17.3	14.8
Southeast Region	6.6	8.1	6.5
Haines Borough	9.3	11.6	8.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	19.7	25.5	17.7
Juneau, City and Borough	4.6	5.3	4.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6.8	8.1	6.9
Petersburg Census Area	10.0	12.2	9.1
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	13.5	18.2	12.4
Sitka, City and Borough	4.9	5.8	5.0
Skagway, Municipality	13.1	21.6	14.0
Wrangell, City and Borough	7.4	10.0	7.4
Yakutat, City and Borough	8.9	12.6	8.6
Southwest Region	13.6	13.6	13.2
Aleutians East Borough	6.5	8.0	7.2
Aleutians West Census Area	6.1	4.7	8.0
Bethel Census Area	16.3	16.6	15.8
Bristol Bay Borough	7.4	9.2	7.4
Dillingham Census Area	10.2	10.4	9.5
Lake and Peninsula Borough	10.1	11.2	8.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	24.0	25.4	21.9

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



This month in Trends history

Currently, Alaska is going through the third and final phase of oil pipeline construction to impact the state's labor force. Phase one of the project consisted mainly of gearing up for the construction. Phase two was the actual

construction of the line, and completion of the line and layoff of construction personnel is the last phase.

JUNE 1977

The effect of pipeline construction on Alaska's labor market could be seen as early as 1971. Unfortunately the pipeline's impact was somewhat negative at the time. Anticipation of the construction was in high gear until environmental and land claims issues put a halt to the project until the latter half of 1974. As a result, many people were caught without anything to do. This created a jump in unemployment not experienced since the early 1960s.

Actual construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline began in late 1974. The employment picture was already beginning to improve, as large numbers of workers were needed just to transport equipment and material to sites along the pipeline route. Due to the size and notoriety of the project, in-migration increased tremendously. Alaska's population began to grow rapidly, particularly in those areas close to the pipeline corridor. The city of Fairbanks was probably the most severely impacted by this population growth.

Pressure to complete the pipeline as soon as possible — as well as other factors such as the sheer size of the project, climatic conditions, and isolation — created a situation that soon had a tremendous impact throughout the state. The demand for almost every item available in Alaska skyrocketed. The most notable shortages were in housing, and to no one's surprise the amount of labor available to the local economy. Employers found it very difficult to compete for workers with the high wages paid to pipeline construction personnel. The tremendously high wages paid to pipeline workers occurred not so much from an extraordinarily high hourly wage, but from the almost unheard-of amount of overtime being worked. During peak condition it was not out of the ordinary for workers to put in 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week.

... The first permanent layoffs along the pipeline began in October 1976 and continued through November and December. By the end of the year approximately 10,000 pipeline workers had been laid off. The impact of this massive layoff was almost immediate. The CPS adjusted unemployment rate rose from 7.6 percent in October to 14.5 percent in February. Though unemployment records are not kept by individual firms, approximately one-half of the total number of people claiming unemployment insurance were from the construction industry.

By March of this year, the final effort to finish the pipeline was well under way; however, the manpower needed to complete the project was substantially less than in previous years. Employment along the line reached a peak of about 10,500 workers during April compared to the peak last year of approximately 23,000. Many ex-pipeline workers were unable to find pipeline work and have now been forced to look elsewhere for employment. This has begun to create a surplus of labor in Alaska, where one year ago labor was at a premium.

... The coming summer employment season may help ease some of the impact of pipeline completion. Summer is the normal time for increased employment, and most industries with the possible exception of construction should experience some growth in employment. However, this seasonal expansion of the economy will not provide nearly enough jobs to employ all of the pipeline workers looking for employment.

Looking beyond the summer months, Alaska's labor market will continue to decline as the economy adjusts to a lower level of economic activity in the post-pipeline era. It is generally agreed that Alaska's labor force will not return to pre-pipeline levels, but a reduction in total employment of approximately 12 percent in 1977 is quite likely.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has published *Alaska Economic Trends* as far back as 1961 and other labor market summaries since the late 1940s. Historical *Trends* articles are available at labor.alaska.gov/trends as far back as 1978, and complete issues are available from 1994.

Safety Minute

How to protect young workers from workplace violence

The end of another school year is rapidly approaching, and thousands of young people across Alaska will be entering the workforce. Parents, educators, and employers have a common responsibility to keep Alaska's working youth safe. Employers, especially, play a critical role in protecting teens from workplace violence.

Employers should implement an appropriate and clear violence prevention program and ensure all management and staff are committed and work together to make the plan effective.

At the very least, workplace violence prevention programs should:

- Establish a clear policy for workplace violence, including verbal and nonverbal threats. ALL staff should know the policy.
- Ensure no worker who reports violence faces negative repercussions.

- Encourage workers to promptly report incidents and suggest ways to reduce risks.
- Log incidents to assess risk and measure progress.
- Make a comprehensive security plan. The plan should include law enforcement or others who can help mitigate workplace violence.
- Assign program responsibility to those with appropriate training and expertise.
- Ensure resources are adequate and available.

For more information on Youth Safety, see Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Youth Safety. For additional information on general workplace safety and health, see www.osha.gov or contact the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Youth Training program at (800) 656-4972.

Safety Minute is written by the Occupational Safety and Health Section of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Employer Resources

Fidelity bonding program helps employers as well as job seekers

Fidelity bonding is a form of insurance that allows employers to hire from a larger pool of qualified applicants without putting themselves at financial risk. Obtaining this free bond allows the employer to focus on a worker's skills and productivity while being protected from potential worker dishonesty on the job.

There is no paperwork for the employer or the prospective employee to complete. The bonds are issued in increments of \$5,000 and provide six months of insurance coverage, with larger bonds issued on a case-by-case basis. Employers may also use bonding to promote a current employee to a more responsible position without exposing the company to risk.

Bonding is a reemployment tool that removes a significant barrier for applicants who may otherwise have a difficult time getting a job. Bonding is a tool for re-entry for ex-offenders, former addicts, those with poor credit or a

history of bankruptcy, those with dishonorable discharges from the military, and economically disadvantaged people who lack a work history.

The Fidelity Bonding Program is administered by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It began as a federal program in 1966, and states began administering their own programs in 1998. The program coordinator issues fidelity bonds from Travelers Property Casualty at no cost to the employer or the job seeker.

Employers seeking bonding insurance can call their closest Alaska Job Center. To find the nearest job center, go to jobs.alaska.gov/offices/ or call (877) 724-2539. For more information about the program, visit the Fidelity bonding Web site at labor.alaska.gov/bonding.

Employer Resources is written by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.