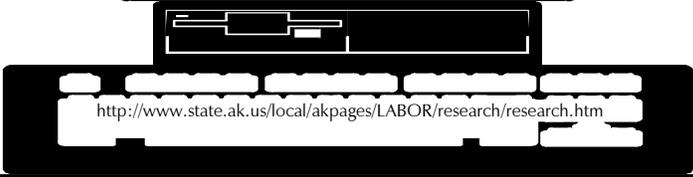


ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



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State of Alaska

Tom Cashen, Commissioner
Department of Labor

Diana Kelm, Editor

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**Alaska
Department
of Labor**



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Annual Benchmark Revision for 1997 Completed

By John Boucher

Each January, the Alaska Department of Labor (AKDOL) revises the nonagricultural wage and salary employment data series in a procedure called benchmarking. The 1997 benchmark revised the employment estimates for 1996 and 1997. Those revised estimates are published in this issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*. (See Tables 1-25.)

Monthly job estimates based on a sample of employers

The monthly employment estimates published in *Alaska Economic Trends* are based on a sample of employers. Current employment and payroll information from more than 1,400 of Alaska's 15,000 wage and salary employers is used by AKDOL to produce the monthly wage and salary employment estimates. Less than 10 percent of Alaska's employers take part in the survey, but participating employers represent nearly half of total nonagricultural employment. For example, the firms sampled in June 1997 accounted for 127,100 jobs out of the total nonagricultural employment of 283,100 (44.9%). These firms voluntarily participate in the U.S. Department of Labor's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The firms' data allow AKDOL economists to produce reliable and timely estimates on both the direction and the magnitude of movement of nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

Revised employment estimates incorporate latest UI tax data

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

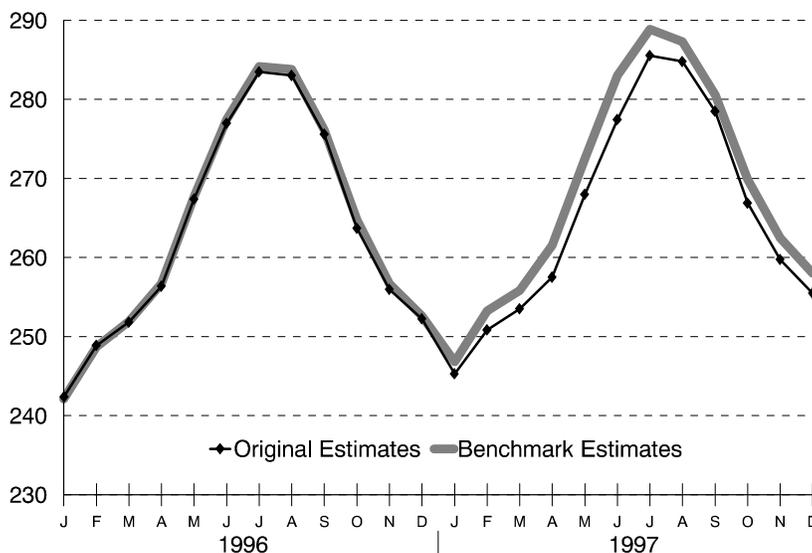
During the benchmark, revised estimates were calculated through December 1997. These estimates incorporate ES-202 data through June 1997. The remaining six months of 1997 were revised using an augmented CES sample. The new sample

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

Figure • 1

Original Estimates Understated Job Growth

Wage and salary employment (thousands)



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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Alaska-1996	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	242,300	248,800	252,000	256,900	267,700	277,500	284,000	283,800	276,200	264,900	256,600	252,500	263,600
Goods-producing	29,800	34,200	35,400	36,200	39,100	43,200	50,200	49,000	43,500	37,900	33,000	29,000	38,400
Service-producing	212,500	214,600	216,600	220,700	228,600	234,300	233,800	234,800	232,700	227,000	223,600	223,500	225,200
Mining	9,500	9,800	10,100	9,800	9,700	10,100	10,400	10,400	10,400	10,000	9,400	9,300	9,900
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,400	8,700	8,900	8,600	8,400	8,600	8,700	8,700	8,600	8,400	7,900	7,900	8,500
Construction	9,000	9,200	9,400	10,600	12,800	14,500	15,400	16,500	15,900	14,500	12,500	10,900	12,600
Manufacturing	11,300	15,200	15,900	15,800	16,600	18,600	24,400	22,100	17,200	13,400	11,100	8,800	15,900
Durable Goods	2,000	2,300	2,800	3,300	3,500	3,600	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,200	2,800	2,200	3,000
Lumber & Wood Products	1,000	1,400	1,800	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,100	2,000	1,800	1,300	1,900
Nondurable Goods	9,300	12,900	13,100	12,500	13,100	15,000	21,000	18,700	13,800	10,200	8,300	6,600	12,900
Seafood Processing	6,200	9,900	10,000	9,400	10,000	11,900	18,000	15,600	10,800	7,100	5,300	3,600	9,800
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	500	500	600	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Transportation	20,700	21,100	21,100	21,800	23,900	24,700	24,600	25,000	24,400	23,200	22,000	21,900	22,900
Trucking & Warehousing	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,700	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,800
Water Transportation	1,400	1,700	1,600	1,900	2,300	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,200	1,900	1,600	1,500	1,900
Air Transportation	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,200	7,600	8,300	8,200	8,300	8,000	7,700	7,600	7,600	7,600
Communications	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,800
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Serv.	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300
Trade	50,900	50,200	50,300	52,000	55,600	58,400	59,300	59,200	57,100	53,900	53,900	54,100	54,600
Wholesale Trade	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,500	8,800	9,100	9,400	9,300	8,900	8,600	8,400	8,500	8,700
Retail Trade	42,500	41,800	41,900	43,500	46,800	49,300	49,900	49,900	48,200	45,300	45,500	45,600	45,900
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	8,800	8,200	8,100	8,300	8,700	9,100	9,200	9,300	9,100	9,200	9,700	9,800	9,000
Food Stores	6,800	6,700	6,600	6,800	7,000	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,100	6,800	6,900	6,900	7,000
Eating & Drinking Places	13,300	13,500	13,700	14,500	16,200	17,200	17,600	17,400	16,700	14,600	14,300	14,200	15,300
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,800	12,100	12,400	12,400	12,200	12,000	11,800	11,800	11,900
Services & Misc.	57,600	58,500	59,600	60,700	63,500	66,100	67,800	67,900	66,100	63,000	61,800	61,700	62,900
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,700	4,700	4,900	5,300	6,700	8,200	9,000	8,900	7,800	5,700	5,200	5,100	6,400
Business Services	7,300	7,400	7,600	7,700	8,000	8,400	8,500	8,500	8,400	8,100	8,000	8,000	8,000
Health Services	13,200	13,400	13,500	13,600	13,800	14,000	14,200	13,900	13,900	14,000	14,000	14,200	13,800
Legal Services	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700
Social Services	6,300	6,400	6,400	6,700	6,800	6,600	6,500	6,500	6,700	6,600	6,700	6,700	6,600
Engineering & Mgmt. Serv.	7,000	7,100	7,300	7,300	7,100	7,400	7,500	7,500	7,600	7,600	7,400	7,300	7,300
Government	71,800	73,300	74,100	74,700	73,800	73,000	69,700	70,300	72,900	74,900	74,100	74,000	73,100
Federal	16,800	16,700	16,700	17,100	17,600	18,000	18,000	17,900	17,600	17,200	17,000	17,100	17,300
State	21,200	22,000	22,100	22,300	20,600	21,600	20,900	20,300	21,400	22,100	22,000	21,800	21,500
Local	33,800	34,600	35,300	35,300	35,600	33,400	30,800	32,100	33,900	35,600	35,100	35,100	34,200

Alaska-1997	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	246,900	253,200	256,000	261,500	272,600	283,100	289,000	287,500	280,600	269,500	262,300	257,700	268,300
Goods-producing	29,700	33,400	34,600	35,800	38,200	43,300	50,100	47,500	43,000	38,200	33,500	29,100	38,000
Service-producing	217,200	219,800	221,400	225,700	234,400	239,800	238,900	240,000	237,600	231,300	228,800	228,600	230,300
Mining	8,900	9,100	9,200	9,500	9,900	10,100	10,400	10,700	11,200	10,700	10,000	9,800	10,000
Oil & Gas Extraction	7,600	7,700	7,800	8,000	8,300	8,400	8,600	8,800	9,300	8,900	8,400	8,300	8,300
Construction	9,400	9,400	9,400	10,700	13,200	15,000	15,700	16,300	15,500	14,200	12,400	11,200	12,700
Manufacturing	11,400	14,900	16,000	15,600	15,100	18,200	24,000	20,500	16,300	13,300	11,100	8,100	15,400
Durable Goods	1,700	2,100	2,800	3,000	3,200	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,400	3,100	2,300	3,000
Lumber & Wood Products	800	1,200	1,700	1,900	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,100	1,400	1,900
Nondurable Goods	9,700	12,800	13,200	12,600	11,900	14,700	20,500	16,900	12,700	9,900	8,000	5,800	12,400
Seafood Processing	6,700	9,900	10,200	9,700	9,200	11,900	17,700	14,100	10,000	7,200	5,300	3,000	9,600
Pulp Mills	500	400	400	300	200	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	200
Transportation	21,300	21,800	22,100	22,900	24,700	25,900	26,000	26,300	25,900	24,500	23,200	23,000	24,000
Trucking & Warehousing	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,900	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,800
Water Transportation	1,500	1,700	1,700	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,000	1,700	1,600	2,000
Air Transportation	7,400	7,500	7,600	7,900	8,300	8,900	9,000	9,100	8,800	8,300	8,200	8,200	8,300
Communications	3,800	3,800	3,800	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,000	4,000	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,000
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Serv.	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300
Trade	51,300	50,800	51,200	53,000	56,600	59,900	60,600	60,400	57,800	55,100	55,000	55,100	55,600
Wholesale Trade	8,300	8,300	8,500	8,600	8,900	9,300	9,500	9,500	9,100	8,700	8,600	8,600	8,800
Retail Trade	43,000	42,500	42,700	44,400	47,700	50,600	51,100	50,900	48,700	46,400	46,400	46,500	46,700
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,000	8,400	8,300	8,600	9,000	9,600	9,800	9,800	9,300	9,700	10,100	10,000	9,300
Food Stores	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,800	7,100	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,200	6,900	6,900	6,900	7,000
Eating & Drinking Places	13,600	13,800	13,900	14,800	16,300	17,800	17,900	18,000	17,100	15,100	14,800	14,700	15,700
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,600	11,500	11,600	11,800	12,200	12,600	12,700	12,800	12,500	12,200	12,100	12,100	12,100
Services & Misc.	60,400	61,400	62,100	63,100	66,500	69,100	69,900	70,300	68,500	65,400	64,300	64,100	65,400
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,800	4,800	5,100	5,400	6,800	8,400	8,900	8,900	8,000	6,000	5,400	5,400	6,500
Business Services	7,900	7,900	8,100	8,200	8,700	8,900	9,100	9,000	9,100	8,600	8,400	8,300	8,500
Health Services	14,100	14,300	14,400	14,500	14,800	14,900	14,700	14,800	14,700	14,800	14,900	14,900	14,700
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
Social Services	6,800	6,900	7,000	7,000	7,000	6,800	6,700	6,900	6,800	6,900	6,900	7,000	6,900
Engineering & Mgmt. Serv.	6,800	7,000	7,100	7,100	7,300	7,500	7,300	7,400	7,400	7,500	7,400	7,400	7,300
Government	72,600	74,300	74,400	74,900	74,400	72,300	69,700	70,200	72,900	74,100	74,200	74,300	73,200
Federal	16,800	16,800	16,900	16,900	17,600	18,000	18,200	18,000	17,600	17,000	16,800	17,000	17,300
State	21,200	22,000	22,100	22,400	20,900	20,800	20,900	20,400	21,100	21,400	21,700	21,700	21,400
Local	34,600	35,500	35,400	35,600									

Historical Data for New Statewide Employment Series 1990-1995

incorporated employer information unavailable when the original estimates were produced.

Estimates lagged employment growth

The statewide wage and salary employment estimate tracked the trend of the benchmarked employment numbers fairly accurately during 1996 and 1997. However, the sample-generated estimates significantly understated employment growth in Alaska's economy for 1997, particularly in the first half of the year. (See Figure 1.) On an annual average basis, the original estimates showed an employment increase of 0.8% from 1996 to 1997, while the benchmarked estimates showed employment growth of 1.8%.

Several series affected by classification and location changes

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

survey results are incorporated into the AKDOL employment series at benchmark. During the process of incorporating the survey results, a small percentage of employers change their industry and/or location. This, in turn, can affect the direction and level of the published employment series. The 1997 benchmark altered several published employment series due to location and/or industry modifications. The following published series were influenced by industry or location changes:

Statewide: Communications; Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services; Wholesale Trade; Health Care Services; Local Government

Municipality of Anchorage: Wholesale Trade

Fairbanks: Communications; Hotels & Lodging Places; Local Government

Interior: Hotels & Lodging Places

Southeast: Wholesale Trade

*Notes for Tables
1-25*

*Benchmark:
March 1997*

*Subtotals may not
add due to
rounding.*

*Alaska and
Municipality of
Anchorage tables
prepared in
cooperation with
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*Government
includes
employees of the
public school
systems and the
University of
Alaska.*

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

(Continued on page 7)

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Municipality of Anchorage -1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	115,900	116,000	116,700	117,900	121,200	124,300	124,100	125,100	124,500	123,300	122,000	121,900	121,100
Goods-producing	9,100	9,100	9,300	9,600	10,800	11,800	12,300	13,000	12,700	11,800	10,600	10,200	10,900
Service-producing	106,800	106,900	107,400	108,300	110,400	112,500	111,800	112,100	111,800	111,500	111,400	111,700	110,200
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,300	2,400	2,500
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400
Construction	4,700	4,700	4,700	5,100	6,300	7,200	7,700	8,400	8,100	7,400	6,400	5,900	6,400
Manufacturing	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,900	2,000
Transportation	11,400	11,500	11,500	11,600	12,200	12,500	12,300	12,400	12,100	12,000	11,800	11,800	11,900
Air Transportation	4,500	4,400	4,400	4,500	4,600	4,900	4,800	4,900	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,700
Communications	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,200
Trade	28,800	28,400	28,400	28,900	29,800	30,600	30,600	30,700	30,500	29,900	30,300	30,700	29,800
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,400	6,300	6,300	6,400	6,500
Retail Trade	22,400	22,000	22,000	22,400	23,200	23,900	24,000	24,200	24,100	23,600	24,000	24,300	23,300
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,600	4,200	4,100	4,100	4,300	4,500	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,700	5,000	5,100	4,500
Food Stores	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	2,900
Eating & Drinking Places	7,600	7,700	7,900	8,100	8,400	8,500	8,500	8,600	8,600	8,000	8,000	8,100	8,200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,000	7,200	7,200	7,400	7,300	7,300	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200
Services & Misc.	31,700	32,100	32,500	32,800	33,600	34,400	34,600	34,700	34,500	34,200	34,000	33,800	33,600
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,600	2,800	2,900	3,000	2,800	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,600
Business Services	5,500	5,500	5,600	5,700	5,800	6,000	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,800
Health Services	6,800	6,900	6,900	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,200	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,000
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Social Services	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,900	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	2,900
Engineering & Mgmt. Serv.	4,900	5,000	5,100	5,000	4,900	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,300	5,200
Government	27,800	27,800	27,900	28,000	27,600	27,800	26,900	27,000	27,400	28,200	28,100	28,200	27,700
Federal	10,000	9,900	9,800	9,900	10,000	10,200	10,200	10,100	10,100	10,000	10,000	10,100	10,000
State	8,100	8,300	8,300	8,300	7,500	7,700	7,600	7,700	8,000	8,400	8,300	8,300	8,000
Local	9,700	9,600	9,800	9,800	10,100	9,900	9,100	9,200	9,300	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,700

Municipality of Anchorage -1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	117,500	118,400	118,900	121,100	124,800	127,400	127,400	127,300	125,900	125,000	125,000	125,000	123,600
Goods-producing	9,100	9,200	9,200	9,900	11,100	12,000	12,500	12,800	12,100	11,400	10,800	10,300	10,900
Service-producing	108,400	109,200	109,700	111,200	113,700	115,400	114,900	114,500	113,800	113,600	114,200	114,700	112,800
Mining	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,400
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300
Construction	5,100	5,000	4,900	5,500	6,700	7,500	7,900	8,200	7,700	7,000	6,500	6,100	6,500
Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,100	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,800	2,000
Transportation	11,400	11,400	11,500	11,800	12,300	12,600	12,600	12,700	12,600	12,300	12,200	12,200	12,100
Air Transportation	4,700	4,700	4,800	4,900	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,200	5,200	5,300	5,100
Communications	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Trade	29,300	29,000	29,100	29,700	30,800	31,400	31,700	31,500	30,900	30,500	30,900	31,300	30,500
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,100	6,300	6,300	6,500	6,600	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Retail Trade	23,100	22,900	22,800	23,400	24,300	24,800	25,000	24,900	24,400	24,100	24,500	24,900	24,100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,500	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,600	4,700	4,900	4,800	4,700	4,900	5,200	5,200	4,700
Food Stores	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000
Eating & Drinking Places	8,000	8,100	8,000	8,400	8,600	8,900	8,900	9,000	8,900	8,400	8,300	8,500	8,500
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,900	6,900	6,900	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,400	7,400	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,200
Services & Misc.	33,100	33,800	34,100	34,300	35,600	36,100	36,100	36,000	35,500	35,200	35,300	35,200	35,000
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,700	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,700	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600
Business Services	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,900	6,200	6,300	6,300	6,400	6,300	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,100
Health Services	7,200	7,300	7,400	7,400	7,600	7,700	7,600	7,700	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,600	7,500
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Social Services	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,200	3,100
Engineering & Mgmt. Serv.	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,300	5,500	5,400	5,300	5,400	5,600	5,600	5,500	5,300
Government	27,700	28,100	28,100	28,300	27,800	28,000	27,100	26,900	27,600	28,400	28,600	28,800	28,000
Federal	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,900	10,100	10,200	10,000	10,000	9,900	9,900	10,000	9,900
State	8,100	8,300	8,300	8,400	7,900	7,900	7,800	7,800	8,100	8,400	8,500	8,500	8,200
Local	9,800	10,000	10,000	10,100	10,000	10,000	9,100	9,100	9,500	10,100	10,200	10,300	9,900

Historical Data for New Municipality of Anchorage Employment Series 1990-1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Oil & Gas Extraction 1990	3,600	3,800	3,900	3,800	3,700	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,700
Oil & Gas Extraction 1991	3,800	3,900	3,900	4,000	3,900	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,000	3,700	3,700	3,800	3,900
Oil & Gas Extraction 1992	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,300
Oil & Gas Extraction 1993	3,200	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,300
Oil & Gas Extraction 1994	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,300	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,700	3,100
Oil & Gas Extraction 1995	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,600	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600
Legal Services 1990	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700
Legal Services 1991	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600
Legal Services 1992	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Legal Services 1993	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Legal Services 1994	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,400
Legal Services 1995	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300
Social Services 1990	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,500
Social Services 1991	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300
Social Services 1992	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,400
Social Services 1993	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Social Services 1994	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600
Social Services 1995	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,700

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Anchorage/Mat-Su 1996

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	125,250	125,550	126,500	128,050	131,650	135,550	135,350	136,900	135,700	134,300	132,600	132,350	131,650
Goods-producing	9,550	9,600	9,700	10,200	11,450	12,600	13,250	14,100	13,750	12,850	11,450	10,950	11,600
Service-producing	115,700	115,950	116,800	117,850	120,200	122,950	122,100	122,800	121,950	121,450	121,150	121,400	120,050
Mining	2,550	2,600	2,650	2,600	2,500	2,550	2,500	2,500	2,550	2,500	2,350	2,400	2,500
Construction	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,550	6,850	7,850	8,500	9,300	9,000	8,200	7,100	6,600	7,000
Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	1,950	2,050	2,100	2,200	2,250	2,300	2,200	2,150	2,000	1,950	2,100
Transportation	12,150	12,200	12,200	12,350	13,000	13,350	13,200	13,400	13,150	13,000	12,850	12,850	12,800
Trade	31,300	30,850	30,850	31,450	32,550	33,400	33,650	33,750	33,400	32,650	33,000	33,300	32,500
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,500	7,550	7,550	7,500	7,600	7,700	7,800	7,750	7,700	7,650	7,650	7,650	7,650
Services & Misc.	34,100	34,500	35,000	35,350	36,300	37,200	37,550	37,750	37,350	36,800	36,550	36,400	36,250
Government	30,650	30,850	31,200	31,200	30,750	31,300	29,900	30,150	30,350	31,350	31,100	31,200	30,850
Federal	10,100	10,000	9,950	10,100	10,150	10,300	10,350	10,300	10,200	10,150	10,100	10,200	10,150
State	8,850	9,150	9,150	9,150	8,400	9,000	8,650	8,600	8,900	9,350	9,200	9,150	8,950
Local	11,700	11,700	12,100	11,950	12,200	12,000	10,900	11,250	11,250	11,850	11,800	11,850	11,700

Anchorage/Mat-Su 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	127,800	128,900	129,400	131,850	136,400	139,350	139,150	139,800	138,250	136,950	136,150	136,150	135,000
Goods-producing	9,900	9,950	9,850	10,650	12,100	13,150	13,800	14,200	13,550	12,850	11,950	11,250	11,950
Service-producing	117,900	118,950	119,550	121,200	124,300	126,200	125,350	125,600	124,700	124,100	124,200	124,900	123,100
Mining	2,250	2,350	2,300	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,500	2,550	2,550	2,550	2,500	2,400	2,450
Construction	5,700	5,600	5,450	6,100	7,500	8,450	8,900	9,300	8,750	8,100	7,350	6,800	7,350
Manufacturing	1,950	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,150	2,250	2,400	2,350	2,250	2,200	2,100	2,050	2,150
Transportation	12,350	12,400	12,500	12,850	13,400	13,650	13,600	13,700	13,650	13,300	13,150	13,250	13,150
Trade	31,800	31,550	31,650	32,350	33,500	34,450	34,650	34,500	33,800	33,350	33,650	34,000	33,250
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,550	7,650	7,800	7,900	7,900	7,700	7,700	7,650	7,650	7,650
Services & Misc.	35,650	36,400	36,700	37,050	38,700	39,400	39,350	39,450	38,800	38,300	38,200	38,100	38,000
Government	30,700	31,200	31,300	31,400	31,050	30,900	29,850	30,050	30,750	31,450	31,550	31,900	31,000
Federal	9,900	9,900	9,950	9,900	10,100	10,200	10,300	10,150	10,150	10,050	10,000	10,150	10,050
State	8,900	9,150	9,200	9,300	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,800	9,000	9,200	9,200	9,300	9,050
Local	11,900	12,150	12,150	12,200	12,150	11,900	10,750	11,100	11,600	12,200	12,350	12,450	11,900

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Fairbanks North Star Borough-1996

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

Fairbanks North Star Borough-1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,450	30,050	30,200	31,350	32,300	33,250	33,850	33,550	33,600	33,000	32,450	31,950	32,100
Goods-producing	2,250	2,350	2,500	2,850	3,450	3,850	4,050	4,250	4,100	3,850	3,150	2,850	3,300
Service-producing	27,200	27,700	27,700	28,500	28,850	29,400	29,800	29,300	29,500	29,150	29,300	29,100	28,800
Mining	750	850	1,000	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,050	950	1,100
Construction	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,250	1,750	2,050	2,150	2,250	2,150	2,000	1,600	1,400	1,650
Manufacturing	450	450	450	500	550	600	600	650	600	550	500	500	550
Transportation	2,050	2,100	2,150	2,250	2,550	2,750	2,850	2,900	2,900	3,000	2,800	2,700	2,600
Trucking & Warehousing	500	500	500	500	600	650	650	600	600	600	600	550	550
Air Transportation	600	650	650	650	700	750	750	750	750	700	700	700	700
Communications	250	250	250	250	250	250	300	300	300	400	400	400	300
Trade	6,200	6,050	6,150	6,400	6,700	7,100	7,200	7,100	7,050	6,850	6,950	6,950	6,750
Wholesale Trade	750	750	750	800	850	850	850	850	800	800	800	800	800
Retail Trade	5,450	5,300	5,400	5,600	5,850	6,250	6,350	6,250	6,250	6,050	6,150	6,150	5,900
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,250	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,450	1,450	1,300
Food Stores	700	700	700	750	750	850	850	850	850	800	800	800	800
Eating & Drinking Places	1,700	1,700	1,750	1,850	1,950	2,050	2,050	2,100	2,100	1,950	1,950	1,900	1,900
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	950	950	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Services & Misc.	7,450	7,600	7,500	7,650	8,000	8,350	8,650	8,650	8,350	7,950	7,900	7,850	8,000
Hotels & Lodging Places	500	550	600	600	800	1,100	1,100	1,050	950	700	650	650	750
Health Services	1,850	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,900
Government	10,350	11,000	10,950	11,200	10,550	10,100	10,000	9,550	10,100	10,300	10,600	10,550	10,450
Federal	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,250	3,400	3,550	3,500	3,450	3,350	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,300
State	4,250	4,700	4,700	4,800	3,950	3,800	3,850	3,450	3,850	4,300	4,550	4,550	4,250
Local	3,050	3,100	3,050	3,150	3,200	2,750	2,650	2,650	2,900	2,800	2,850	2,800	2,900

Table • 11

Historical Data for New Fairbanks North Star Borough Employment Series 1990-1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Hotels & Lodging Places 1990	300	300	300	350	400	550	600	600	500	350	300	300	400
Hotels & Lodging Places 1991	250	300	300	300	400	500	500	500	400	300	300	300	350
Hotels & Lodging Places 1992	300	300	300	350	400	500	550	550	450	350	300	300	400
Hotels & Lodging Places 1993	250	250	300	350	500	650	700	700	550	400	400	450	450
Hotels & Lodging Places 1994	550	550	600	550	850	1,100	1,200	1,150	1,000	600	600	600	800
Hotels & Lodging Places 1995	500	500	550	600	950	1,200	1,250	1,200	950	600	550	600	800
Health Services 1990	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,350
Health Services 1991	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,400
Health Services 1992	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,450	1,500	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,500	1,450	1,450
Health Services 1993	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Health Services 1994	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,800	1,800	1,850	1,800
Health Services 1995	1,800	1,750	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,850	1,700	1,700	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,850	1,800

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Interior-1996	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,750	33,350	33,850	35,350	38,000	40,050	40,300	40,050	39,350	37,800	36,550	35,300	36,900
Goods-producing	2,600	2,700	2,750	3,200	3,950	4,600	4,800	4,900	4,800	4,600	3,900	3,100	3,850
Service-producing	30,150	30,650	31,100	32,150	34,050	35,450	35,500	35,150	34,550	33,200	32,650	32,200	33,050
Mining	800	850	900	900	1,100	1,300	1,400	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,300	1,100	1,200
Construction	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,800	2,300	2,650	2,700	2,800	2,700	2,500	2,100	1,500	2,100
Manufacturing	450	450	450	500	550	650	700	650	600	600	500	500	550
Transportation	2,350	2,350	2,500	2,650	3,150	3,200	3,250	3,350	3,150	2,900	2,500	2,500	2,800
Trade	6,650	6,550	6,550	7,000	8,050	8,600	8,800	8,650	8,250	7,400	7,500	7,200	7,600
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Services & Misc.	7,650	7,750	8,000	8,200	8,750	9,600	10,050	10,100	9,400	8,700	8,400	8,350	8,750
Hotels & Lodging Places	600	600	700	800	1,200	1,750	1,900	1,900	1,500	950	700	700	1,100
Government	12,500	13,000	13,050	13,300	13,050	12,950	12,300	11,950	12,650	13,150	13,200	13,100	12,850
Federal	3,650	3,650	3,650	3,750	4,000	4,100	4,050	4,000	3,850	3,700	3,750	3,750	3,850
State	4,450	4,850	4,850	4,950	4,400	4,650	4,400	3,900	4,350	4,900	4,950	4,900	4,650
Local	4,400	4,500	4,550	4,600	4,650	4,200	3,850	4,050	4,450	4,550	4,500	4,450	4,400

Interior-1997	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	33,800	34,600	34,950	36,300	38,600	40,650	41,400	40,850	40,300	38,400	37,100	36,150	37,750
Goods-producing	2,750	2,850	3,050	3,400	4,050	4,600	4,850	4,950	4,700	4,400	3,650	3,200	3,850
Service-producing	31,050	31,750	31,900	32,900	34,550	36,050	36,550	35,900	35,600	34,000	33,450	32,950	33,900
Mining	950	1,050	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,450	1,600	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,350	1,200	1,350
Construction	1,350	1,300	1,350	1,600	2,100	2,500	2,550	2,600	2,450	2,200	1,750	1,500	1,950
Manufacturing	450	500	500	500	550	650	700	700	650	600	550	500	550
Transportation	2,400	2,550	2,600	2,700	3,300	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,550	3,550	3,100	3,050	3,150
Trade	6,750	6,600	6,700	7,050	7,800	8,850	8,950	8,800	8,450	7,700	7,750	7,500	7,750
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,100	1,150
Services & Misc.	8,150	8,300	8,250	8,500	9,150	9,750	10,250	10,250	9,850	8,950	8,650	8,550	9,050
Hotels & Lodging Places	600	650	700	750	1,200	1,750	1,950	1,850	1,750	1,000	750	750	1,150
Government	12,700	13,250	13,300	13,550	13,150	12,650	12,450	11,950	12,550	12,650	12,800	12,750	12,800
Federal	3,800	3,800	3,850	3,850	4,100	4,250	4,250	4,200	4,000	3,750	3,700	3,750	3,950
State	4,450	4,900	4,950	5,050	4,250	4,150	4,300	3,750	4,150	4,550	4,750	4,750	4,500
Local	4,450	4,550	4,500	4,650	4,800	4,250	3,900	4,000	4,400	4,350	4,350	4,250	4,350

Historical Data for New Interior Region Employment Series 1990-1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Hotels & Lodging Places 1990	400	400	450	500	700	1,050	1,150	1,150	900	550	450	400	700
Hotels & Lodging Places 1991	300	350	350	400	600	700	950	950	750	450	400	350	550
Hotels & Lodging Places 1992	350	350	350	400	650	950	1,000	1,000	800	500	400	400	600
Hotels & Lodging Places 1993	300	300	350	400	800	1,100	1,250	1,250	950	550	500	550	700
Hotels & Lodging Places 1994	600	600	700	650	1,100	1,550	1,700	1,650	1,400	750	700	700	1,000
Hotels & Lodging Places 1995	600	600	650	750	1,200	1,700	1,800	1,750	1,350	800	700	700	1,050

(Continued from page 3)

For a detailed description of the effects industry and location code changes had on these series, contact AKDOL's Research and Analysis Section at (907) 465-4500.

Sixteen published series introduced: oil & gas, services targeted

This year marks AKDOL's most ambitious expansion ever of published monthly employment data.

Beginning in January 1998, monthly employment estimates will be produced for 16 additional industries. This significantly increases the availability of timely statewide and regional economic information.

Four of the new published series provide detail on a critical Alaska industry, the oil and gas sector. Previously, employment trends in Alaska's oil and gas sector were buried within the mining industry employment estimates. Beginning with this issue,

(Continued on page 12)

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Southeast-1996	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,250	31,950	32,650	34,800	36,900	38,150	40,250	40,900	39,100	35,500	33,600	32,900	35,650
Goods-producing	3,500	3,950	4,450	5,450	5,750	6,250	7,850	8,150	6,900	5,700	4,900	4,150	5,600
Service-producing	27,750	28,000	28,200	29,350	31,150	31,900	32,400	32,750	32,200	29,800	28,700	28,750	30,100
Mining	200	250	250	200	250	250	300	300	300	300	300	300	250
Construction	1,250	1,350	1,400	1,750	1,950	2,050	2,150	2,150	2,050	1,900	1,700	1,500	1,750
Manufacturing	2,050	2,350	2,800	3,500	3,550	3,950	5,400	5,700	4,550	3,500	2,900	2,350	3,550
Durable Goods	750	950	1,300	1,750	1,800	1,800	1,600	1,550	1,550	1,450	1,250	900	1,400
Lumber & Wood Products	550	800	1,150	1,550	1,600	1,600	1,450	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,100	750	1,200
Nondurable Goods	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,750	1,750	2,150	3,800	4,150	3,000	2,050	1,650	1,450	2,150
Seafood Processing	500	650	700	1,000	950	1,350	3,100	3,400	2,250	1,250	900	650	1,400
Pulp Mills	550	550	550	500	550	550	450	500	500	500	500	500	500
Transportation	2,350	2,300	2,350	2,500	3,200	3,500	3,500	3,550	3,450	2,750	2,350	2,350	2,850
Trade	5,850	5,750	5,800	6,200	6,900	7,450	7,750	7,800	7,250	6,300	6,050	6,100	6,600
Wholesale Trade	450	450	450	500	500	550	550	600	550	500	500	500	500
Retail Trade	5,400	5,300	5,350	5,700	6,400	6,900	7,200	7,200	6,700	5,800	5,550	5,600	6,100
Food Stores	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,450	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,400
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,550	1,600	1,650	1,550	1,500	1,450	1,450	1,450
Services & Misc.	5,900	6,050	6,100	6,500	7,000	7,450	7,550	7,500	7,250	6,500	6,300	6,350	6,700
Health Services	1,500	1,550	1,550	1,500	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,500	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550
Government	12,350	12,600	12,650	12,750	12,550	11,950	12,000	12,250	12,700	12,750	12,550	12,500	12,450
Federal	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	2,050	2,100	2,150	2,150	2,100	1,950	1,900	1,850	1,950
State	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,550	5,250	5,300	5,250	5,250	5,400	5,350	5,350	5,300	5,350
Local	5,150	5,300	5,350	5,300	5,250	4,550	4,600	4,850	5,200	5,450	5,300	5,350	5,150

Southeast-1997	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,600	32,450	33,300	34,750	37,200	38,600	40,300	41,350	39,750	35,700	34,150	33,150	36,050
Goods-producing	3,450	3,900	4,550	5,050	5,500	6,050	7,600	8,050	6,950	5,650	4,800	3,900	5,450
Service-producing	28,150	28,550	28,750	29,700	31,700	32,550	32,700	33,300	32,800	30,050	29,350	29,250	30,550
Mining	300	300	300	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Construction	1,250	1,250	1,350	1,550	1,900	2,050	2,000	2,050	1,950	1,800	1,600	1,450	1,700
Manufacturing	1,900	2,350	2,900	3,150	3,250	3,650	5,250	5,650	4,650	3,500	2,850	2,100	3,450
Durable Goods	650	900	1,350	1,500	1,700	1,800	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,550	1,100	1,500
Lumber & Wood Products	450	700	1,100	1,250	1,450	1,600	1,650	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,400	950	1,300
Nondurable Goods	1,250	1,450	1,550	1,650	1,550	1,850	3,400	3,750	2,750	1,700	1,300	1,000	1,950
Seafood Processing	500	750	900	1,100	1,150	1,400	2,950	3,350	2,350	1,250	850	550	1,450
Pulp Mills	450	450	450	300	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	250
Transportation	2,250	2,250	2,400	2,550	3,100	3,550	3,600	3,800	3,750	2,950	2,550	2,500	2,950
Trade	5,700	5,700	5,750	6,150	7,150	7,650	7,750	7,750	7,200	6,300	6,150	6,200	6,600
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	550	600	600	650	650	650	600	600	600	600
Retail Trade	5,150	5,150	5,200	5,600	6,550	7,050	7,100	7,100	6,550	5,700	5,550	5,600	6,050
Food Stores	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,350
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,400	1,450	1,500	1,450	1,550	1,650	1,650	1,700	1,650	1,550	1,550	1,500	1,550
Services & Misc.	6,300	6,400	6,500	6,750	7,150	7,600	7,950	8,050	7,750	6,850	6,650	6,700	7,050
Health Services	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,600
Government	12,500	12,750	12,600	12,800	12,750	12,100	11,750	12,000	12,450	12,400	12,450	12,350	12,400
Federal	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,050	1,900	1,850	1,800	1,950
State	5,450	5,500	5,450	5,550	5,400	5,300	5,100	5,150	5,250	5,200	5,250	5,200	5,300
Local	5,250	5,450	5,350	5,350	5,350	4,700	4,550	4,750	5,150	5,300	5,350	5,350	5,150

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Historical Data for New Southeast Alaska Employment Series 1990-1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Food Stores 1990	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150
Food Stores 1991	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150
Food Stores 1992	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Food Stores 1993	1,250	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,450	1,400	1,400	1,350	1,250	1,250	1,350
Food Stores 1994	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
Food Stores 1995	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,450	1,500	1,550	1,500	1,550	1,500	1,450	1,400	1,400	1,450
Health Services 1990	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Health Services 1991	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Health Services 1992	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,200
Health Services 1993	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,200	1,250
Health Services 1994	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,350	1,400	1,350
Health Services 1995	1,400	1,450	1,400	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,450

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Gulf Coast-1996	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	23,000	24,250	24,950	25,450	27,650	30,150	32,400	32,300	29,250	25,700	24,250	22,950	26,850
Goods-producing	4,750	5,550	6,050	5,850	6,600	8,150	10,650	10,600	8,250	6,100	5,050	3,950	6,800
Service-producing	18,250	18,700	18,900	19,600	21,050	22,000	21,750	21,700	21,000	19,600	19,200	19,000	20,050
Mining	900	900	950	950	900	1,050	1,100	1,250	1,250	1,150	1,050	950	1,050
Oil & Gas Extraction	900	900	950	950	900	1,050	1,100	1,250	1,250	1,150	1,000	950	1,050
Construction	800	850	900	950	1,150	1,300	1,350	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,050	900	1,100
Manufacturing	3,050	3,800	4,200	3,950	4,550	5,800	8,200	7,850	5,600	3,650	2,950	2,100	4,650
Seafood Processing	1,900	2,600	2,900	2,650	3,200	4,400	6,850	6,500	4,250	2,350	1,700	1,000	3,350
Transportation	1,950	2,050	2,050	2,150	2,350	2,400	2,450	2,450	2,350	2,200	2,150	2,050	2,200
Trade	4,400	4,350	4,400	4,650	5,250	5,800	6,000	5,950	5,350	4,700	4,600	4,550	5,000
Wholesale Trade	500	500	500	550	550	650	800	850	750	550	550	550	600
Retail Trade	3,900	3,850	3,900	4,100	4,700	5,150	5,200	5,100	4,600	4,150	4,050	4,000	4,400
Eating & Drinking Places	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,350	1,600	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,600	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,450
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	650	650	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	700	650	700
Services & Misc.	4,650	4,800	4,900	5,150	5,800	6,150	6,250	6,200	5,800	5,150	4,950	5,000	5,400
Health Services	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Government	6,600	6,850	6,900	6,950	6,950	6,950	6,350	6,400	6,800	6,850	6,800	6,750	6,750
Federal	600	600	600	650	750	800	800	800	750	700	650	650	700
State	1,650	1,700	1,750	1,800	1,650	1,700	1,750	1,700	1,800	1,750	1,700	1,650	1,700
Local	4,350	4,550	4,550	4,500	4,550	4,450	3,800	3,900	4,250	4,400	4,450	4,450	4,350

Gulf Coast-1997	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	23,200	24,600	24,700	26,100	27,500	30,850	33,000	32,350	29,400	26,150	24,650	23,200	27,150
Goods-producing	4,650	5,800	5,700	6,250	6,550	8,800	11,050	10,200	8,000	6,300	5,150	4,050	6,900
Service-producing	18,550	18,800	19,000	19,850	20,950	22,050	21,950	22,150	21,400	19,850	19,500	19,150	20,250
Mining	950	1,000	950	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,600	1,200	1,050	950	1,100
Oil & Gas Extraction	950	1,000	950	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,600	1,200	1,050	950	1,100
Construction	700	750	800	950	1,150	1,400	1,550	1,650	1,600	1,450	1,200	1,000	1,200
Manufacturing	3,000	4,050	3,950	4,300	4,250	6,250	8,300	7,300	4,800	3,650	2,900	2,100	4,550
Seafood Processing	2,050	3,000	2,750	3,100	3,050	5,050	7,100	6,050	3,550	2,400	1,650	1,000	3,400
Transportation	2,150	2,250	2,300	2,350	2,450	2,550	2,600	2,550	2,450	2,250	2,250	2,100	2,350
Trade	4,350	4,350	4,400	4,750	5,250	5,800	6,050	6,000	5,500	4,850	4,750	4,700	5,050
Wholesale Trade	500	500	500	600	600	650	750	800	750	550	550	550	600
Retail Trade	3,850	3,850	3,900	4,150	4,650	5,150	5,300	5,200	4,750	4,300	4,200	4,150	4,450
Eating & Drinking Places	1,100	1,150	1,250	1,350	1,600	1,850	1,900	1,850	1,650	1,350	1,250	1,200	1,450
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	650	650	700	750	750	750	750	700	700	700	650	700
Services & Misc.	4,750	4,750	4,900	5,150	5,600	6,100	6,250	6,250	5,950	5,250	5,050	5,000	5,400
Health Services	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,100	1,150	1,100
Government	6,650	6,800	6,750	6,900	6,900	6,850	6,300	6,600	6,800	6,800	6,750	6,700	6,750
Federal	700	650	650	700	750	800	800	800	750	700	700	650	700
State	1,600	1,650	1,650	1,700	1,650	1,750	1,750	1,850	1,750	1,650	1,600	1,550	1,700
Local	4,350	4,500	4,450	4,500	4,500	4,300	3,750	3,950	4,300	4,450	4,450	4,500	4,350

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Historical Data for New Gulf Coast Employment Series 1990-1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Oil & Gas Extraction 1990	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,150
Oil & Gas Extraction 1991	1,300	1,150	1,200	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,350	1,700	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,300
Oil & Gas Extraction 1992	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,150	1,150	1,250	1,450	1,300	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,150
Oil & Gas Extraction 1993	900	900	900	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,100	1,100
Oil & Gas Extraction 1994	950	1,000	900	950	1,000	950	1,050	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,100	1,050
Oil & Gas Extraction 1995	950	950	950	1,150	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,400	1,100	1,050	1,150
Eating & Drinking Places 1990	900	950	1,000	1,200	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,250	1,050	1,000	950	1,150
Eating & Drinking Places 1991	900	950	950	1,150	1,300	1,500	1,550	1,500	1,400	1,150	1,050	1,000	1,200
Eating & Drinking Places 1992	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,150	1,400	1,650	1,700	1,600	1,450	1,200	1,100	1,050	1,300
Eating & Drinking Places 1993	950	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,350	1,550	1,650	1,650	1,500	1,200	1,150	1,100	1,250
Eating & Drinking Places 1994	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,200	1,400	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,550	1,350	1,250	1,200	1,350
Eating & Drinking Places 1995	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,300	1,450	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,600	1,350	1,250	1,200	1,450
Health Services 1990	850	900	900	900	900	950	950	950	950	1,000	1,000	1,000	950
Health Services 1991	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Health Services 1992	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,150
Health Services 1993	950	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,100
Health Services 1994	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,200	1,150	1,050	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,150
Health Services 1995	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,150	1,050	1,050	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997

Southwest-1996	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,100	18,450	18,200	17,750	18,350	18,250	19,850	17,950	17,100	16,100	14,850	13,950	17,150
Goods-producing	3,950	6,750	6,550	5,850	5,950	6,200	7,950	5,700	4,400	3,700	2,900	2,050	5,150
Service-producing	11,150	11,700	11,650	11,900	12,400	12,050	11,900	12,250	12,700	12,400	11,950	11,900	12,000
Seafood Processing	3,750	6,550	6,350	5,650	5,700	5,900	7,600	5,350	4,150	3,450	2,650	1,850	4,900
Government	5,200	5,500	5,550	5,600	5,900	5,250	4,750	5,100	5,600	5,800	5,650	5,600	5,450
Federal	450	450	450	450	500	500	500	500	500	450	450	450	450
State	450	500	500	500	550	600	550	500	550	500	500	500	500
Local	4,300	4,550	4,600	4,650	4,850	4,150	3,700	4,100	4,550	4,850	4,700	4,650	4,450

Southwest-1997	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,800	18,050	18,550	17,750	17,850	18,100	19,600	17,300	17,150	16,400	15,100	13,700	17,100
Goods-producing	4,200	6,200	6,600	5,550	5,100	5,500	7,450	4,800	4,300	3,750	2,950	1,600	4,850
Service-producing	11,600	11,850	11,950	12,200	12,750	12,600	12,150	12,500	12,850	12,650	12,150	12,100	12,300
Seafood Processing	4,050	6,050	6,450	5,400	4,900	5,300	7,150	4,500	4,000	3,500	2,700	1,450	4,600
Government	5,400	5,500	5,600	5,600	5,900	5,200	4,700	5,150	5,600	5,800	5,700	5,600	5,500
Federal	400	400	400	400	450	450	450	450	450	400	400	400	400
State	500	500	500	500	500	550	550	500	500	500	450	450	500
Local	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,700	4,950	4,200	3,700	4,150	4,650	4,900	4,850	4,750	4,550

Northern-1996	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,650	15,150	15,550	15,350	14,950	15,250	15,850	15,750	15,550	15,300	14,950	15,100	15,300
Goods-producing	5,400	5,650	5,750	5,600	5,350	5,500	5,700	5,600	5,300	5,000	4,850	4,950	5,400
Service-producing	9,250	9,500	9,800	9,750	9,600	9,750	10,150	10,150	10,250	10,300	10,100	10,150	9,900
Mining	5,050	5,250	5,300	5,100	4,900	5,000	5,050	4,900	4,750	4,550	4,450	4,550	4,900
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,600	4,800	4,850	4,700	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,400	4,250	4,100	4,050	4,150	4,450
Government	4,350	4,500	4,750	4,700	4,550	4,550	4,500	4,550	4,800	4,900	4,850	4,800	4,650
Federal	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
State	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	350	350	300	300	300	300
Local	3,850	4,000	4,250	4,200	4,050	4,050	4,000	4,000	4,250	4,400	4,350	4,300	4,150

Northern-1997	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,650	14,750	14,850	14,800	15,100	15,450	15,600	15,650	16,000	15,750	15,450	15,500	15,300
Goods-producing	4,800	4,800	4,850	4,850	5,000	5,200	5,400	5,450	5,550	5,350	5,150	5,200	5,150
Service-producing	9,850	9,950	10,000	9,950	10,100	10,250	10,200	10,200	10,450	10,400	10,300	10,300	10,150
Mining	4,500	4,450	4,450	4,400	4,550	4,700	4,750	4,850	5,000	5,000	4,850	4,900	4,700
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,050	4,000	4,050	4,000	4,150	4,250	4,250	4,400	4,550	4,550	4,400	4,450	4,250
Government	4,650	4,700	4,700	4,650	4,700	4,600	4,400	4,400	4,750	4,850	4,850	4,800	4,650
Federal	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
State	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	350	300	300	300	300	300
Local	4,150	4,200	4,200	4,150	4,200	4,100	3,900	3,850	4,250	4,350	4,350	4,300	4,150

Table • 25

Historical Data for New Northern Alaska Employment Series 1990-1995

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Oil & Gas Extraction 1990	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,700	5,050	6,150	6,150	6,250	5,650	5,500	5,300	5,400	5,300
Oil & Gas Extraction 1991	5,150	5,350	5,500	5,450	5,400	5,650	5,400	5,500	5,250	4,800	4,600	4,550	5,200
Oil & Gas Extraction 1992	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,400	4,500	4,350	4,350	4,150	3,900	3,900	4,050	4,300
Oil & Gas Extraction 1993	3,900	4,050	4,050	4,300	4,350	4,650	4,400	4,550	4,400	4,700	4,450	4,450	4,350
Oil & Gas Extraction 1994	4,850	4,650	4,550	4,650	4,750	4,750	4,700	4,800	4,750	4,700	4,500	4,700	4,700
Oil & Gas Extraction 1995	4,350	4,500	4,400	4,250	4,400	4,600	4,500	4,700	4,650	4,700	4,600	4,650	4,550

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries 1997 Annual Averages

Average Weekly Earnings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$1,150.38	\$1,317.83	\$1,304.70	\$1,275.12	\$1,211.25	\$1,453.64	\$1,404.50	\$1,404.38	\$1,408.18	\$1,325.70	\$1,316.14	\$1,281.04	\$1,319.87
Construction	1,002.73	988.40	1,017.44	1,023.09	1,090.56	1,191.26	1,189.88	1,182.55	1,218.24	1,118.48	1,021.82	1,018.41	1,087.98
Manufacturing	358.14	528.94	573.09	481.57	500.98	487.14	543.44	550.61	660.92	650.33	586.07	618.44	550.13
Seafood Processing	206.04	459.18	507.78	381.29	369.90	372.94	472.93	445.31	519.40	521.86	336.88	332.47	411.91
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	645.46	641.11	631.20	624.92	626.85	682.65	686.16	662.80	663.85	662.59	695.59	661.20	656.68
Trade	394.71	407.38	415.16	412.16	413.59	418.65	424.15	430.56	424.24	420.84	419.33	406.32	416.07
Wholesale	636.67	628.01	625.92	625.44	637.29	658.69	641.65	645.12	656.59	641.44	664.26	630.74	641.28
Retail	348.63	365.38	373.25	370.01	371.45	375.87	383.38	389.57	381.88	380.44	375.07	364.98	373.92
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	497.72	503.01	520.49	512.95	502.67	515.69	495.72	508.94	505.85	516.19	549.08	516.11	512.23

Average Weekly Hours

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	46.2	51.7	50.2	50.4	47.5	54.2	53.0	53.5	52.8	49.1	47.6	47.8	50.3
Construction	40.4	40.0	40.6	40.2	42.6	45.8	45.8	45.5	47.0	44.0	40.5	40.9	42.8
Manufacturing	28.2	53.0	58.3	43.7	43.3	41.6	50.6	48.9	52.0	55.3	43.9	41.9	46.7
Seafood Processing	24.5	56.9	65.1	45.5	44.3	41.3	52.2	49.7	53.0	60.4	41.9	34.1	47.4
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	33.9	34.9	33.7	34.0	35.0	36.1	36.0	34.2	35.5	34.6	35.8	34.1	34.8
Trade	32.3	32.8	33.4	33.4	33.3	34.4	34.4	34.5	33.3	33.4	33.6	32.9	33.5
Wholesale	38.4	38.2	38.4	38.3	38.6	39.8	38.7	38.4	37.8	38.0	38.8	37.3	38.4
Retail	31.1	31.8	32.4	32.4	32.3	33.5	33.6	33.7	32.5	32.6	32.7	32.1	32.6
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	35.4	35.7	36.5	36.2	35.3	36.6	36.0	36.8	35.8	36.3	37.1	36.5	36.2

Average Hourly Earnings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$24.90	\$25.49	\$25.99	\$25.30	\$25.50	\$26.82	\$26.50	\$26.50	\$26.67	\$27.00	\$27.65	\$26.80	\$26.24
Construction	24.82	24.71	25.06	25.45	25.60	26.01	25.98	25.98	25.92	25.42	25.23	24.90	25.42
Manufacturing	12.70	9.98	9.83	11.02	11.57	11.71	10.74	10.74	12.71	11.76	13.35	14.76	11.78
Seafood Processing	8.41	8.07	7.80	8.38	8.35	9.03	9.06	9.06	9.80	8.64	8.04	9.75	8.69
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	19.04	18.37	18.73	18.38	17.91	18.91	19.06	19.06	18.70	19.15	19.43	19.39	18.87
Trade	12.22	12.42	12.43	12.34	12.42	12.17	12.33	12.33	12.74	12.60	12.48	12.35	12.42
Wholesale	16.58	16.44	16.30	16.33	16.51	16.55	16.58	16.58	17.37	16.88	17.12	16.91	16.70
Retail	11.21	11.49	11.52	11.42	11.50	11.22	11.41	11.41	11.75	11.67	11.47	11.37	11.47
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	14.06	14.09	14.26	14.17	14.24	14.09	13.77	13.77	14.13	14.22	14.15	14.14	14.15

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

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Average hours and earnings estimates are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing). Averages are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours. Benchmark March 1997.

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

Annual Average Labor Force By Region and Census Area 1995-97

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
Alaska Statewide	302,996	312,962	316,032	22,167	24,451	24,930	7.3	7.8	7.9	280,829	288,511	291,102
Anch./Mat-Su Region	158,672	163,699	166,762	9,568	10,403	10,981	6.0	6.4	6.6	149,104	153,296	155,781
Municipality of Anchorage	133,215	136,597	138,378	6,986	7,475	7,997	5.2	5.5	5.8	126,229	129,122	130,381
Mat-Su Borough	25,457	27,102	28,384	2,582	2,928	2,984	10.1	10.8	10.5	22,875	24,174	25,400
Gulf Coast Region	34,381	35,445	35,280	3,912	4,459	4,376	11.4	12.6	12.4	30,469	30,986	30,904
Kenai Peninsula Borough	21,524	22,474	22,317	2,653	3,147	3,040	12.3	14.0	13.6	18,871	19,327	19,277
Kodiak Island Borough	7,492	7,550	7,552	733	714	734	9.8	9.5	9.7	6,759	6,836	6,818
Valdez-Cordova	5,366	5,419	5,412	526	597	602	9.8	11.0	11.1	4,840	4,822	4,810
Interior Region	46,908	49,099	49,631	3,873	4,141	4,107	8.3	8.4	8.3	43,035	44,958	45,524
Denali Borough	1,139	1,226	1,272	106	112	144	9.3	9.1	11.3	1,033	1,114	1,128
Fairbanks North Star Borough	41,220	43,221	43,737	3,097	3,306	3,319	7.5	7.6	7.6	38,123	39,915	40,418
Southeast Fairbanks	2,520	2,559	2,554	317	348	315	12.6	13.6	12.3	2,203	2,211	2,239
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,029	2,094	2,069	353	376	329	17.4	18.0	15.9	1,676	1,718	1,740
Northern Region	8,752	9,011	8,834	909	1,022	928	10.4	11.3	10.5	7,843	7,989	7,906
Nome	3,390	3,454	3,371	436	444	393	12.9	12.9	11.7	2,954	3,010	2,978
North Slope Borough	3,157	3,268	3,258	117	158	180	3.7	4.8	5.5	3,040	3,110	3,078
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,205	2,288	2,204	356	419	355	16.1	18.3	16.1	1,849	1,869	1,849
Southeast Region	39,868	40,872	40,863	2,926	3,249	3,346	7.3	7.9	8.2	36,942	37,623	37,517
Haines Borough	1,186	1,201	1,201	132	141	144	11.1	11.7	12.0	1,054	1,060	1,057
Juneau Borough	16,677	17,214	17,210	959	1,064	1,105	5.8	6.2	6.4	15,718	16,150	16,105
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,750	8,005	8,016	594	698	729	7.7	8.7	9.1	7,156	7,307	7,287
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	3,306	3,470	3,478	360	465	482	10.9	13.4	13.9	2,946	3,005	2,996
Sitka Borough	4,592	4,588	4,569	284	309	302	6.2	6.7	6.6	4,308	4,279	4,267
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,318	2,326	2,351	181	142	173	7.8	6.1	7.4	2,137	2,184	2,178
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,734	3,750	3,710	394	411	380	10.6	11.0	10.2	3,340	3,339	3,330
Yakutat Borough	304	320	329	22	21	31	7.2	6.6	9.4	282	299	298
Southwest Region	14,417	14,837	14,662	980	1,177	1,192	6.8	7.9	8.1	13,437	13,660	13,470
Aleutians East Borough	1,578	1,607	1,576	55	72	63	3.5	4.5	4.0	1,523	1,535	1,513
Aleutians West	2,395	2,428	2,442	64	96	142	2.7	4.0	5.8	2,331	2,332	2,300
Bethel	5,729	5,972	5,849	457	574	526	8.0	9.6	9.0	5,272	5,398	5,323
Bristol Bay Borough	563	591	590	37	43	50	6.6	7.3	8.5	526	548	540
Dillingham	1,648	1,710	1,675	104	136	123	6.3	8.0	7.3	1,544	1,574	1,552
Lake & Peninsula Borough	590	578	565	42	47	42	7.1	8.1	7.4	548	531	523
Wade Hampton	1,916	1,953	1,966	223	210	247	11.6	10.8	12.6	1,693	1,743	1,719

Benchmark: March 1997 P/ denotes preliminary estimates R/ denotes revised estimates

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis.

The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.

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

(Continued from page 7)

published estimates for statewide oil and gas employment as well as regional employment estimates for this industry in the Municipality of Anchorage, the Gulf Coast region (which includes Kenai and Valdez), and the Northern region will be available in *Alaska Economic Trends*.

Nine of the new published series are subcategories of the services sector. The services industry, which has fueled a significant portion of the state's job growth during the last 10 years, employs more Alaskans than any other private sector industry. Accordingly, this issue of *Alaska Economic Trends* introduces nine new published series in the ser-

vices industry. Legal services and social services will be published in the statewide and Municipality of Anchorage estimates. The Fairbanks North Star Borough estimates will add hotels and lodging places and health care services as subcategories of services. The Gulf Coast and Southeast regions will add health care services and the Interior estimates will add hotels and lodging places.

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

Three other categories were added to the monthly employment estimates. In the statewide estimates, electric, gas and sanitary services was added as a category of the transportation, communications and utilities industry. In Southeast Alaska, retail trade will include the category food stores, while in the Gulf Coast retail trade will add an estimate for eating and drinking places.

To provide users with an historical perspective on these new industries, time series of monthly data for the 16 new industries are published in this issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*. (See Tables 3,6,11,14,17,20 and 25.)

Pulp mills dropped

Due to the size and near extinction of Alaska's pulp mill sector, the statewide and Southeast employment estimates will no longer include a pulp mill industry estimate. This data series ended with the December 1997 employment estimates.

Hours and earnings statistics also revised

Employers also provide the data used to estimate hours and earnings statistics. During the benchmark, these estimates are adjusted to reflect the revised level of employment. When the employment data are benchmarked, the hours and earnings data are reviewed to determine how employment changes affected the hours and earnings estimates. (See Table 26.) Usually, the hours and earnings data change either due to the benchmarking of employment or to the addition of data from new firms to augment the existing hours and earnings sample. (Hours and earnings data are not reported in the quarterly ES-202 report; therefore, estimates of average weekly hours and earnings data are entirely sample-based.)

Unemployment rate 7.9% in 1997

Alaska's statewide jobless rate held steady in 1997, averaging 7.9% for the second year in a row. Alaska's annual unemployment rate was below 8.0% for the fifth straight year. (See Table 27.)

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

ERRATA:

In the March issue of the *Alaska Economic Trends*, the column headings for **Table 1**—pages 4 and 5—should read

Industry	Resident Workers	Nonresident Workers	Percent Nonresident	Resident Wages	Nonresident Wages	Percent Nonresident
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Job Growth Rebounds in 1997

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

John Boucher, Neal Fried, Kristen Tromble, and Brigitta Windisch-Cole are labor economists with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. John and Kristen are located in Juneau; Neal and Brigitta in Anchorage.

Alaska's economy rebounded strongly in 1997, completing a decade of job growth. Returning to a growth rate more typical of the 1990s, the state added 4,700 jobs last year. (See Table 1.) This improvement followed two years of slower than average growth. From 1990-94, Alaska's economy added about 5,000 jobs a year. The economy grew by 2,800 jobs in 1995, and 1,600 in 1996.

A broad-based expansion

The economy was propelled by expansion in air transportation, services, retail and finance, a solid visitor season and a budding hard rock mining industry. (See Figure 1.) While oil and gas extraction posted a job loss, a strong performance by oil

field services firms in the latter half of 1997 helped rekindle growth. Overall, wage and salary employment grew 1.8%, three times the 0.6% rate of 1996.

While most sectors of the economy grew, Alaska's fishing and timber industries experienced setbacks. The timber industry was hit by the closure of the Ketchikan pulp mill. A disastrous Bristol Bay salmon return meant job losses in Alaska's seafood processing sector. Consolidation in Alaska's oil industry rounded out private sector losses, while in the public sector, only state government shed jobs.

Health care and business services lead service sector growth

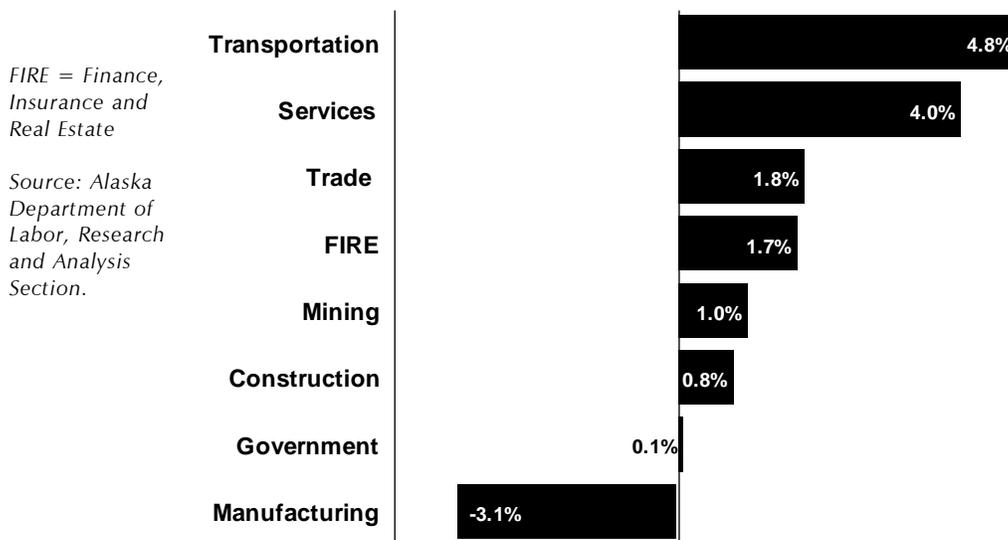
With over half of the state's new jobs, the services industry was by far the biggest contributor to growth in 1997. Services growth was widespread with only one facet, personal services, showing a drop. The strongest gains came in hospitals and health care facilities and in firms providing business services. Business services firms that performed notably included those offering facilities maintenance and management, security related services, and computer programming and other computer-related business services.

Tourism-related services also played an important role in job growth last year. Amusement and recreation services, a sector heavily influenced by Alaska's visitor industry, posted solid employment growth. Hotel and lodging employment, bolstered by the opening of the new Princess facility near Talkeetna, also increased.

Figure • 1

Transportation, Services Lead 1997 Job Growth

Percent change in employment 1996-1997



FIRE = Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

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

Air transportation takes off

Services added the most jobs, but air transportation had the fastest growth, adding jobs at a 9.2% clip. Anchorage International Airport continued to gain prominence as a hub for international cargo and passenger traffic. Cargo carriers, including Federal Express, UPS, and United Air Lines, scrambled for a piece of the action. In addition, tourist traffic and a growing state economy kept domestic and in-state traffic counts healthy.

Despite some losses, retailers post job gain

Fueled by increases in eating and drinking establishments and growth in general merchandisers, retail employment was the third-largest contributor to private-sector job gains in 1997. Eating and drinking establishments posted a fourth consecutive year of growth, while general merchandise stores came back from the retrenchment that characterized much of 1996. Gas stations, building supply stores, and furniture stores also added jobs. Other major segments of the retail sector held their ground in 1997.

Oil field services firms bounce back

After one of its roughest shakeouts ever, Alaska's oil and gas industry, particularly the oil field services sector, began to revive. Early in the year, oil industry job losses took a heavy toll on Anchorage and the North Slope. By mid-year, new exploration and development activities translated into increasingly smaller over-the-year job losses. By the fall, employment in the oil and gas sector registered its first consecutive over-the-year gain since 1994.

Change in Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997—Alaska

	1996	1997	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	263,600	268,300	4,700	1.8 %
Goods-producing	38,400	38,000	-400	-1.0
Service-producing	225,200	230,300	5,100	2.3
Mining	9,900	10,000	100	1.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,500	8,300	-200	-2.4
Construction	12,600	12,700	100	0.8
Manufacturing	15,900	15,400	-500	-3.1
Durable Goods	3,000	3,000	0	0.0
Lumber & Wood Products	1,900	1,900	0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	12,900	12,400	-500	-3.9
Seafood Processing	9,800	9,600	-200	-2.0
Pulp Mills	500	200	-300	-60.0
Transportation	22,900	24,000	1,100	4.8
Trucking & Warehousing	2,800	2,800	0	0.0
Water Transportation	1,900	2,000	100	5.3
Air Transportation	7,600	8,300	700	9.2
Communications	3,800	4,000	200	5.3
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2,300	2,300	0	0.0
Trade	54,600	55,600	1,000	1.8
Wholesale Trade	8,700	8,800	100	1.1
Retail Trade	45,900	46,700	800	1.7
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,000	9,300	300	3.3
Food Stores	7,000	7,000	0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	15,300	15,700	400	2.6
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,900	12,100	200	1.7
Services & Misc.	62,900	65,400	2,500	4.0
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,400	6,500	100	1.6
Business Services	8,000	8,500	500	6.3
Health Services	13,800	14,700	900	6.5
Legal Services	1,700	1,700	0	0.0
Social Services	6,600	6,900	300	4.5
Engineering & Mgmt. Services	7,300	7,300	0	0.0
Government	73,100	73,200	100	0.1
Federal	17,300	17,300	0	0.0
State	21,500	21,400	-100	-0.5
Local	34,200	34,500	300	0.9

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

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

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

Benchmark: March 1997

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

Employment in minerals mining continued to rise in 1997. Both the Greens Creek and Fort Knox mines were in operation for the full year. At the Red Dog mine, a massive construction project is expanding the mine's production capacity which will lead to incremental job gains. Growth at several smaller mines also added to 1997's employment levels.

Native corporations boost finance sector

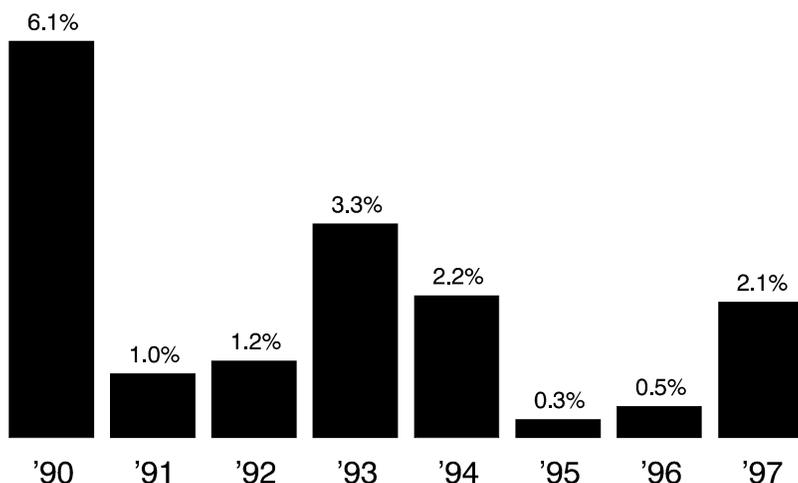
After two years of contraction, Alaska's financial sector returned to employment growth. Alaska's Native corporations led the recovery. Expansion of Native-operated businesses and a good

Figure • 2

Anchorage's Growth Accelerates

Percent change in employment from previous year

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



The year in review is presented region-by-region on the following pages:

Anchorage

In 1997, after two years of little movement, broad-based expansion energized Anchorage's job growth. Employment grew by 2.1% or 2,500 jobs compared to 0.5% or 600 jobs in 1996. (See Figure 2.) Services, retail trade and transportation made the most headway. Only the oil industry and the federal government counted small losses.

Health care leads services growth

Services, Anchorage's biggest employer, generated the largest number of new jobs and had the highest growth rate (4.2%). (See Table 2.) Once again, health care, with over seven percent growth, took the starring role. Nearly all segments of health care grew, including hospitals, clinics, doctors' and dentists' offices, and laboratories. This growth came despite little change in the city's population. Instead, a combination of other factors appears to be driving the expansion. One factor may be that, as the industry offers a wider variety of services, fewer residents seek care out of state. The growing choice of health services may effectively increase consumption as does the increasing average age of Alaskans. Also, many health professionals appear to be moving to Alaska to escape the constraints of managed care.

Business and social services also contributed to the growth in the services sector. Expansion in computer services is spurring the business services momentum. The privatization of public services is stimulating growth in social services.

Despite construction of several new facilities, hotel employment remained flat. Hotel employment will climb in 1998 as Anchorage's new hotels open or complete a full year's operation.

construction year for the regional housing authorities were instrumental in the turn around.

Manufacturing heads list of job losers

For the second year in a row, manufacturing topped the list of declining industries. Seafood processors posted 200 fewer jobs than in 1996. A smaller than predicted Bristol Bay salmon harvest and low salmon prices created losses for processors and fishers. In the wood products industry, Ketchikan Pulp Company closed its pulp mill, prompting a loss of more than 300 jobs.

Federal losses abate, state loses jobs, local governments grow

After two years of steep employment declines related to downsizing, federal government employment held steady in 1997. State government employment dropped slightly as early retirement incentives and general state budget cutbacks took their toll. At the local level, increased school enrollment and new school facilities nudged employment up. The largest change in local government came late in the year when the Fairbanks Municipal Utilities System was privatized.

Retail comes back

After a pause in 1996, retail trade showed some strong employment gains in 1997. Although no new large retailers opened, many existing players expanded operations and others simply hired more staff, as in the case of Safeway which expanded several stores. The year 1997 also saw an increase in new "full service" gas stations. Mapco Express and Tesoro, the city's two largest gas retailers, added new stations and enlarged others to include more groceries, eateries and other services. New Sagaya's, a specialty grocer, opened a second store in downtown Anchorage. Growth in eating and drinking also boosted retail employment. The only sizable new entrant into this market was the Outback Steakhouse, but a host of smaller establishments opened or added outlets. The trend of eating more meals away from home is continuing and may be finding new vigor.

Air transportation is another economic star

Domestic, local and international carriers rose to new heights in 1997 as air transportation employment grew by 8.5% or 400 jobs. Both domestic and bush carriers added capacity. More visitors and expansion by existing carriers fueled growth in Alaska's domestic air transportation sector. Some carriers, such as Northern Air Cargo, PenAir, and Alaska Airlines, built new facilities. Others, like Lynden Transport, added air freight services. Growth at international air carriers was even more dramatic. The amount of cargo landed increased approximately 10 percent. Federal Express, the industry's largest player, began work on a new \$38 million facility and added more than 100 employees. United Airlines initiated a new trans-Pacific air freight service, which more than doubled its staff. Many other players added flights.

Change in Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997—Municipality of Anchorage

	1996	1997	Change	Percent Change	
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	121,100	123,600	2,500	2.1 %	Subtotals may not add due to rounding.
Goods-producing	10,900	10,900	0	0.0	
Service-producing	110,200	112,800	2,600	2.4	Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Mining	2,500	2,400	-100	-4.0	
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,400	2,300	-100	-4.2	Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.
Construction	6,400	6,500	100	1.6	
Manufacturing	2,000	2,000	0	0.0	Benchmark: March 1997
Transportation	11,900	12,100	200	1.7	
Air Transportation	4,700	5,100	400	8.5	Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.
Communications	2,200	2,400	200	9.1	
Trade	29,800	30,500	700	2.3	
Wholesale Trade	6,500	6,400	-100	-1.5	
Retail Trade	23,300	24,100	800	3.4	
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,500	4,700	200	4.4	
Food Stores	2,900	3,000	100	3.4	
Eating & Drinking Places	8,200	8,500	300	3.7	
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,200	7,200	0	0.0	
Services & Misc.	33,600	35,000	1,400	4.2	
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,600	0	0.0	
Business Services	5,800	6,100	300	5.2	
Health Services	7,000	7,500	500	7.1	
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	0	0.0	
Social Services	2,900	3,100	200	6.9	
Engineering & Mgmt. Services	5,200	5,300	100	1.9	
Government	27,700	28,000	300	1.1	
Federal	10,000	9,900	-100	-1.0	
State	8,000	8,200	200	2.5	
Local	9,700	9,900	200	2.1	

Oil patch employment stabilizing

Although employment fell slightly in 1997, the oil industry's performance improved. By the end of the year, job losses had nearly disappeared as rising employment at oil service companies offset losses at the big producers. Work on the new Alpine and Badami prospects and extensive activity at West Sak breathed new life into the industry. Perhaps more important than the increase in employment is the renewed optimism generated by the resurgence of work in the state's oil patch.

Construction enjoys biggest year since the crash of 1986

In 1997, construction valuation in Anchorage climbed to \$391 million, the largest total since 1986. No one project or segment of the industry dominated. Residential construction enjoyed its best year since 1986. Work on at least five new hotels also contributed to the gain. Other big

T a b l e • 3

Change in Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997—Fairbanks North Star Borough

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division.

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

Benchmark: March 1997

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

	1996	1997	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,350	32,100	750	2.4 %
Goods-producing	3,200	3,300	100	3.1
Service-producing	28,150	28,800	650	2.3
Mining	900	1,100	200	22.2
Construction	1,750	1,650	-100	-5.7
Manufacturing	500	550	50	10.0
Transportation	2,300	2,600	300	13.0
Trucking & Warehousing	550	550	0	0.0
Air Transportation	650	700	50	7.7
Communications	250	300	50	20.0
Trade	6,550	6,750	200	3.1
Wholesale Trade	750	800	50	6.7
Retail Trade	5,800	5,900	100	1.7
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,250	1,300	50	4.0
Food Stores	750	800	50	6.7
Eating & Drinking Places	1,950	1,900	-50	-2.6
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,050	50	5.0
Services & Misc.	7,850	8,000	150	1.9
Hotels & Lodging Places	800	750	-50	-6.3
Health Services	1,850	1,900	50	2.7
Government	10,500	10,450	-50	-0.5
Federal	3,200	3,300	100	3.1
State	4,350	4,250	-100	-2.3
Local	2,950	2,900	-50	-1.7

projects included the \$29 million University of Alaska Anchorage dormitory and the new \$38 million Federal Express facility. In Anchorage, stability, a word not normally associated with the construction sector, has characterized this industry in the 1990s.

The city's finance sector remains stable

Finance employment did not increase as might be expected in light of low interest rates, a strong stock market, increases in mortgage activity, a healthy construction industry and sound balance sheets in the city's financial institutions. Technology-driven changes continue to restrain growth in this industry. Key Bank also trimmed its workforce as it moved some operations out-of-state.

Alyeska Pipeline Service restructuring costs jobs

The biggest single loss in Anchorage in 1997 was Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's decision to

decentralize its operations. This action moved over 250 jobs out of Anchorage to Fairbanks and Valdez. Not only was this a sizable job loss for Anchorage, but the payroll loss was even larger, as these represent some of the highest paying jobs in the state.

Government climbs slightly

After steep declines in federal government employment in 1995 and 1996, losses moderated in 1997. Federal employment fell by 100 jobs. In state government, after five years of no growth, employment climbed by 200. Local government added the same number of jobs. Most of these gains came from the local school districts where enrollments continued to rise and new schools opened.

Fairbanks

With a gain of 750 jobs and a growth rate of 2.4%, Fairbanks was Alaska's fastest growing labor market region. (See Figures 3 and 4.) Many industries grew, with service-producing industries, such as transportation and trade, providing the bulk of the new jobs. Only government employment took a downturn. In the goods-producing industries, mining's 200 new jobs offset a loss in construction employment. Fairbanks' economy also benefited as industries with above average pay added most of the new jobs.

Mining creates year-round employment

The first full year of operation at Fort Knox drove the gain in mining employment. This mine, employing about 250 workers, has consistently stayed ahead of its production goals. Although gold prices softened during 1997, falling to a 12-year low at year's end, production efforts continued uninter-

rupted in the Fairbanks mining district. Moreover, exploration work on newer prospects progressed at a brisk pace. The Sumitomo/La Teck partnership announced a gold ore deposit of over four million ounces on its Pogo property, east of Fairbanks.

Construction tilts down

Construction employment fell by 100 jobs as Fairbanks' industrial construction surge ebbed with completion of the Fort Knox mine and the Healy Clean Coal Project. However, school and university construction, military projects, road upgrades, a new runway, and residential and other construction projects kept Fairbanks' crews busy.

Retail expands

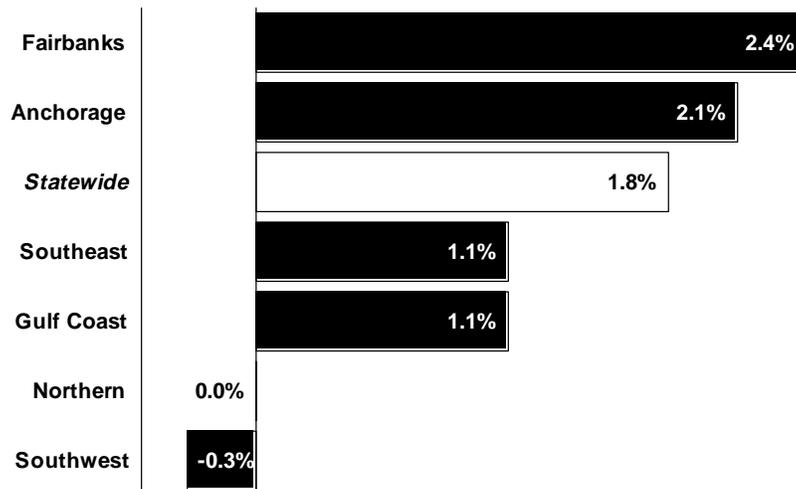
Fairbanks' retail sector expanded in 1997 resulting in a 100-job gain. (See Table 3.) Five new gasoline and convenience retail outlets entered the market place. Bigger retailers, such as Sears and Fred Meyer, enlarged or renovated stores; Fred Meyer added a new grocery market. Expansions like these, along with other business start-ups, helped lift retail employment.

Service employment growth calms

From 1991 to 1996, services contributed much to the job growth in Fairbanks. However, in 1997, its dominance as a strong job creator weakened. Although employment in health care, social and business services, and non-profit organizations grew, some shifts in service contracts moved jobs to other industry sectors. Combined, the multi-

Fairbanks Leads Regional Growth

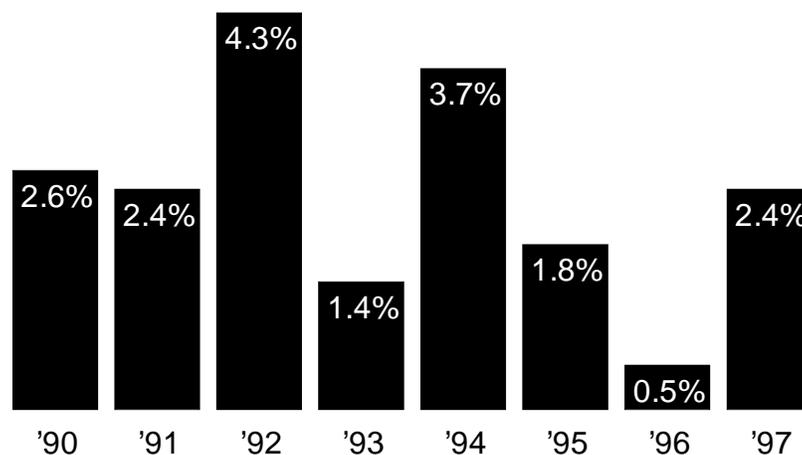
Percent change in employment 1996-1997



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

Fairbanks Posts Another Year of Growth

Percent change in employment from previous year



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

faceted services industry added only 150 new jobs last year. Several factors contributed to this subdued performance.

The lackluster tourist season may have played a role. Summer traffic at the Canada/Alaska border fell. Although local hotel revenues rose by over 10

Table • 4

Change in Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997—Gulf Coast Region

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

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

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

Benchmark: March 1997

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

	1996	1997	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	26,850	27,150	300	1.1 %
Goods-producing	6,800	6,900	100	1.5
Service-producing	20,050	20,250	200	1.0
Mining	1,050	1,100	50	4.8
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,050	1,100	50	4.8
Construction	1,100	1,200	100	9.1
Manufacturing	4,650	4,550	-100	-2.2
Seafood Processing	3,350	3,400	50	1.5
Transportation	2,200	2,350	150	6.8
Trade	5,000	5,050	50	1.0
Wholesale Trade	600	600	0	0.0
Retail Trade	4,400	4,450	50	1.1
Eating & Drinking Places	1,450	1,450	0	0.0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	700	700	0	0.0
Services & Misc.	5,400	5,400	0	0.0
Health Services	1,050	1,100	50	4.8
Government	6,750	6,750	0	0.0
Federal	700	700	0	0.0
State	1,700	1,700	0	0.0
Local	4,350	4,350	0	0.0

percent in 1997, coming in nearly \$3.5 million stronger in the third quarter than a year ago, hotel employment dropped slightly. The Westmark Hotel, a big employer, scaled back operations during a major renovation. These mixed indicators make it hard to evaluate the success of the 1997 visitor season.

Shifts in contract alliances affected business services employment. A contract between a business service firm and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company expired and an oil service contractor took over. This change shifted employment to the oil and gas industry, and in the process cost the services sector over 150 jobs.

Two hefty boosts to transportation, communications and utilities employment

Transportation's significant job gains stemmed from the privatization of the Fairbanks Municipal Utility Services (MUS) and the relocation of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company jobs from Anchorage to Fairbanks. Privatization of MUS did not create new jobs in Fairbanks, but transferred about 250 local government employees to the private

communications and utilities industries, which are part of the transportation sector. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's reorganization brought more than 200 good paying jobs to Fairbanks.

Public sector employment declines

Privatization of MUS, on the flip side, meant the loss of about 250 public sector jobs. By December, the public sector's share of employment had shrunk by 1.2% (300 jobs) compared to year-ago levels. Fewer students and budget crunches contributed to lower employment at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Even though the school district responded to a

1.2% rise in enrollment by adding staff in the fall, total government employment fell by 50 jobs in 1997.

Gulf Coast Region

The Gulf Coast region gained 300 jobs in 1997, for a modest growth rate of 1.1%. (See Table 4.) Moderate increases came from the oil and gas, construction, transportation, and trade industries. Manufacturing losses, particularly in timber, restrained growth.

Transportation added the most jobs, 150. Valdez benefited when Alyeska Pipeline Service Company relocated approximately 40 jobs from Anchorage. Other gains were spread throughout the region.

Construction employment posted the fastest growth rate, 9.1%. Several projects kept crews busy including the Sealife Center in Seward, the Alaska Regional Aircraft Fire Training Facility in Kenai, the Tesoro refinery expansion in Nikiski, the Whittier road project, the Coast Guard housing project in Kodiak and the new Kodiak Fisheries Research Center.

Although seafood processors experienced another turbulent year, manufacturing's job losses stemmed from the timber industry. When Asian market troubles softened demand, timber companies cut back on harvesting. Seafood processing employment rose slightly despite the loss of Tyson's fire-damaged plant on Kodiak Island and renewed conflict over salmon prices which led to a two-week strike by the Kodiak fleet. Elsewhere, harvests were more satisfactory. One area, the Copper River sockeye fishery, produced a spectacular volume. Healthy groundfish and halibut catches also helped sustain processing employment.

Southwest Region

Despite the disastrous salmon harvest in Bristol Bay, the Southwest region lost only 50 wage and salary jobs in 1997. (See Table 5.) Although seafood processing employment fell over 300 jobs from 1996's level, growth in services nearly made up the difference. In the spring, the U.S. Navy contracted with a business service company to maintain the defunct naval air station at Adak. Military service contracts and environmental clean-up of former military sites have become important businesses in Southwest Alaska, creating jobs in distant and remote rural locations.

In fishing, only the groundfish, opilio (Snow) crab, and a few king crab harvests went as expected. Other fisheries brought surprises. Togiak's herring fishery yielded only a third of the 1996 harvest value. In Bristol Bay, salmon fishers landed a little over half of last year's catch and low prices prevailed. Another disappointment came when fishery regulators announced the closure of a bairdi (Tanner) crab harvest. Last year's downturn was particularly evident between June and August. On average, over 600 fewer workers were needed

Change in Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997—Southwest Region

	1996	1997	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,150	17,100	-50	-0.3 %
Goods-producing	5,150	4,850	-300	-5.8
Service-producing	12,000	12,300	300	2.5
Seafood Processing	4,900	4,600	-300	-6.1
Government	5,450	5,500	50	0.9
Federal	450	400	-50	-11.1
State	500	500	0	0.0
Local	4,450	4,550	100	2.2

Table • 6

Change in Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997—Northern Region

	1996	1997	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,300	15,300	0	0.0 %
Goods-producing	5,400	5,150	-250	-4.6
Service-producing	9,900	10,150	250	2.5
Mining	4,900	4,700	-200	-4.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,450	4,250	-200	-4.5
Government	4,650	4,650	0	0.0
Federal	200	200	0	0.0
State	300	300	0	0.0
Local	4,150	4,150	0	0.0

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

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

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

Benchmark: March 1997

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

during the high season to process the dismal catch. A busy groundfishery somewhat mitigated the overall loss.

Northern Region

In the Northern region, total employment remained unchanged but some industries saw significant swings. (See Table 6.) Oil-related employment fell 200 jobs below the 1996 level. During the first half of the year, this drop was much steeper with over-the-year job losses averaging 550. However, new oil field development and stepped-up exploration on projects such as Badami, Alpine, and West Sak reversed the trend. Overall, gains in service-producing industries masked the losses in oil-related industries.

Employment growth occurred along the region's western coast and in its northwest corner. Health care services and trade spurred the economies of coastal towns and villages. Construction at the Red

Table • 7

Change in Wage and Salary Employment 1996-1997—Southeast Region

Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

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

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

Benchmark: March 1997

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

	1996	1997	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,650	36,050	400	1.1 %
Goods-producing	5,600	5,450	-150	-2.7
Service-producing	30,100	30,550	450	1.5
Mining	250	350	100	40.0
Construction	1,750	1,700	-50	-2.9
Manufacturing	3,550	3,450	-100	-2.8
Durable Goods	1,400	1,500	100	7.1
Lumber & Wood Products	1,200	1,300	100	8.3
Nondurable Goods	2,150	1,950	-200	-9.3
Seafood Processing	1,400	1,450	50	3.6
Pulp Mills	500	250	-250	-50.0
Transportation	2,850	2,950	100	3.5
Trade	6,600	6,600	0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	500	600	100	20.0
Retail Trade	6,100	6,050	-50	-0.8
Food Stores	1,400	1,350	-50	-3.6
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,450	1,550	100	6.9
Services & Misc.	6,700	7,050	350	5.2
Health Services	1,550	1,600	50	3.2
Government	12,450	12,400	-50	-0.4
Federal	1,950	1,950	0	0.0
State	5,350	5,300	-50	-0.9
Local	5,150	5,150	0	0.0

Dog mine, a nearly \$200 million project, created jobs for residents of the Northwest Arctic Borough. Villages in the North Slope Borough continued to benefit from public construction. In Barrow, Alaska Commercial Company is building a \$17 million store, and the North Slope Borough is constructing a large cultural center.

Southeast Region

In 1997, Southeast's headline stories included the pulp mill closure in Ketchikan, Echo Bay's withdrawal from the AJ mine project, the continued effort to obtain permits for the Kensington mine, a strike by salmon fishers and controversy over the location of a new federal marine fisheries facility. The Canadian blockade of a state ferry disrupted tourist traffic and the transportation of fish out of the region and of other goods into it. However, despite these attention grabbing events, the Southeast region pulled out a surprising 1.1% growth in employment. (See Figure 5 and Table 7.)

Services, which added 350 jobs, fueled the growth. Growth was most apparent in the amusement and recreation sector. A Juneau health club, JRC, Inc., provided a significant number of these jobs when it opened a new facility. However, JRC's employment numbers include workers, such as part-time babysitters, who are compensated with club privileges. Tourism activity, including the Mt. Roberts Tramway's first full season of operation, also boosted recreation employment. Health services employers, including SEARHC, also added jobs.

Other industries add sweeteners

The mining industry turned in the region's highest growth rate.

Greens Creek, operating for the first full year since reopening, provided much of the increase. Other industry-related activity included continued exploration on the Niblack prospect and construction at the Calder limestone mine, both on Prince of Wales, and aerial geophysical survey work near Wrangell.

The finance, insurance and real estate industry expanded, largely as a result of Native corporation activity. Employment was also up at the Tlingit & Haida Regional Housing Authority. In contrast, by mid-year, other sectors of this industry such as banking and insurance were showing either no change or small losses in employment. Native corporations also spurred growth in other industries. For instance, in Craig, the village corporation, Shaan Seet, contributed to the growth in logging and Goldbelt, Juneau's village corporation, is associated with the Mt. Robert's Tramway.

In transportation, the water transportation sector accounted for the bulk of the industry's employment growth. Employers in marine cargo handling and water transportation of passengers reported

many new jobs. Slight gains were also reported in air and other transportation and in communications and utilities.

For the second consecutive year, employment in trade remained flat. Wholesale trade showed a substantial gain, about half of which was due to a reporting change. However, a small loss in retail offset this gain. Retail employment averaged 4.3% growth per year from 1986 to 1995, but has been either flat or down in the past two years. The industry appears to be taking a breather after the rapid growth. Retail losses were broad based. Annual average employment in food stores was down 5.0% from 1995, though employment at eating and drinking places fell less than one percent. In other retail, only general merchandise stores and miscellaneous retail showed increases in the first half of 1997 compared to the same period in 1995. Apparel, building materials and hardware stores, and home furnishing stores were hardest hit, with automotive dealers and service stations showing a smaller loss. All of these categories have faced increased competition with the expansion of general merchandisers. Miscellaneous retail, which includes jewelry and gift stores, may be benefiting from the tourist trade.

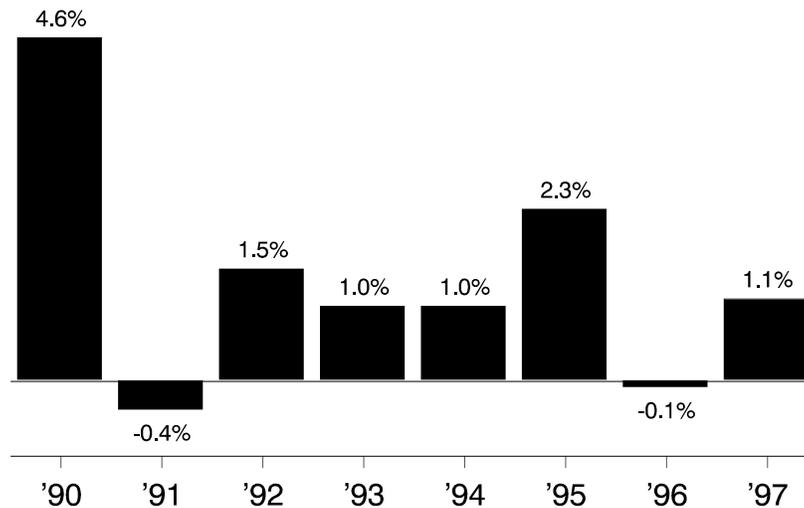
Tourism continues to have a strong influence on the region's economy, contributing to jobs in construction, transportation, retail and services.

Mill closure and other losses are spoilers

Closure of the pulp mill in Ketchikan threw the region's manufacturing into reverse. However, though the pulp mill sector shed 250 jobs in 1997, manufacturing as a whole was down only 100 jobs. Lumber and wood products employment rebounded, and seafood processing employment

Employment Up in Southeast

Percent change in employment from previous year



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

rose. In 1996, the number of lumber and wood products jobs hit the lowest level since at least 1975 as logging and sawmill activity was curtailed, partly due to uncertainty about the pulp mill's future. Although the pulp mill closed near the end of the first quarter of 1997, on an annual average basis, pulp mill employment fell by only half. Ketchikan Pulp Corporation reported employment at its pulp mill site (exclusive of sawmill and logging operations) throughout the year, with December's level still over 100.

This extended employment softened the impact of the mill closure on the region's economy for 1997. Indeed, some of the immediate impact of the mill closure may have been felt before the closure. Revised employment numbers show that Southeast's employment fell slightly in 1996. Pre-closure uncertainty about the mill's future led to cuts in logging and sawmill employment and reduced consumer spending, all of which affected the region's economy. Once the closure became reality, a strong construction season and the expectation of new business startups, along with the severance and unemployment benefits received by laid-off workers, appear to have helped stabilize the economy in the first months following the closure.

At the major industry level, manufacturing lost the

most jobs, but construction had a slightly larger percentage loss. A slowdown in residential construction was partly responsible. Throughout the region, permits were issued for nearly 30 percent fewer housing units in 1997 than in 1996. Despite this decline, the construction industry kept busy with employment at its second highest level since 1984. Road projects and tourism-related expansion of retail and hotel space contributed to the industry's strong performance.

Government was the only other major industry with employment losses in 1997. State government employment declined while federal and local held steady. Retirements under an early-out program and the cost-saving consolidation of some local offices into regional centers may explain some of the drop in state government.

Overall, Southeast's employment continued to shift from goods-producing to service-producing industries. In 1997, service-producing industries provided 76.7% of private sector jobs, up from

69.0% in 1990. While many service jobs are so called "good" jobs (full-time, year-round, well paying), many of the jobs added in 1997 appeared to be part-time or seasonal positions.

Summary: Job growth rebounds

Broad-based job growth, led by the services sector and a surging air transportation industry, helped Alaska's job growth rate rebound in 1997. An oil industry revival, a solid tourism year, retail expansion, and the hard rock mining industry contributed significantly to employment growth. Meanwhile, Alaska's timber and seafood industries, along with state government, were the only negative factors in the state's employment growth.

Regionally, only Southwest Alaska lost jobs. Fairbanks, Anchorage, and the Southeast, Gulf Coast, and Northern regions all gained employment.

By Brigitta Windisch-Cole

ALASKA EMPLOYMENT SCENE

A Good New Year – Despite Export Woes

Brigitta Windisch-Cole is a labor economist with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. Brigitta is located in Anchorage.

The year 1998 started on a promising note when several of Alaska's key economic indicators showed improvement. January's unemployment rate registered 7.8%, much better than last year's January rate of 10.2%. (See Table 4.) Wage and salary employment grew by 2.4% over last January, and the rate of inflation continued to slow to a mere 1.2% during the second half of 1997. All these indicators are positive factors in Alaska's economy. However, some negatives have emerged, such as the Asian economic crisis, that may impact Alaska's economy in coming months.

Annual job growth is up

Normal seasonal fluctuation was behind most of the loss of 5,100 jobs from December to January. However, the over-the-year comparison shows Alaska with 5,700 more jobs this January than last. (See Table 1.) Recovery in Alaska's oil and gas industry spurred some of this growth.

Development of the Badami and Alpine fields on the North Slope reversed the waning oil industry employment trend of last year. Compared to Jan-

January 1997, 600 more workers were employed in Alaska's oil industry. Adjacent to the Prudhoe Bay field, two smaller discoveries, Midnight Sun and Sambuca, raise hopes for more exploration and development activities. Phillips Petroleum Company has announced a discovery in Cook Inlet. The development of new oil fields coincides with the current slump in oil prices. These new fields may help the industry's workforce weather the storm. While momentary price erosions could curtail production, committed development budgets are pushing towards expedient project completion with large oilfield service and construction crews.

Over-the-year employment changes are highlighted by job creation in the retail, transportation and services industries, where annual job growth remains prominent. Job losses in manufacturing industries marked the only negative in January's employment trends. The annual job loss in the timber industry still contains the Ketchikan Pulp Mill closure of last March, and also shows an extended winter break for some loggers. Although seafood processing employment is down a bit, winter fisheries are expected to perform fairly well. The opilio (Snow) crab harvest quota is more than twice as large as last year's limit, and processing employment may swing into full gear next month after bountiful deliveries. Groundfisheries will help keep processing crews busy. Public sector employment has remained fairly flat. At the local level there have been increases, particularly in some school districts.

The unemployment rate keeps improving

For six months in a row, the unemployment rate has improved over last year's rates. This January, the civilian jobless rate, not seasonally adjusted, came in at 7.8%. (See Table 4.) Over 24,300 Alaskans sought jobs in January 1998, fewer than a year ago. Job

seekers in Alaska's railbelt have seen the most dramatic changes. The drop in the number of unemployed workers compared to last year in Anchorage, and the Fairbanks North Star, Kenai Peninsula, and Mat-Su Boroughs was significant. Several factors helped lower unemployment. Undoubtedly, the decreased flow of in-migrants from other states has increased opportunities for local workers. And Alaskan businesses, both new and established, have created new jobs.

Lowest rate of inflation in nine years

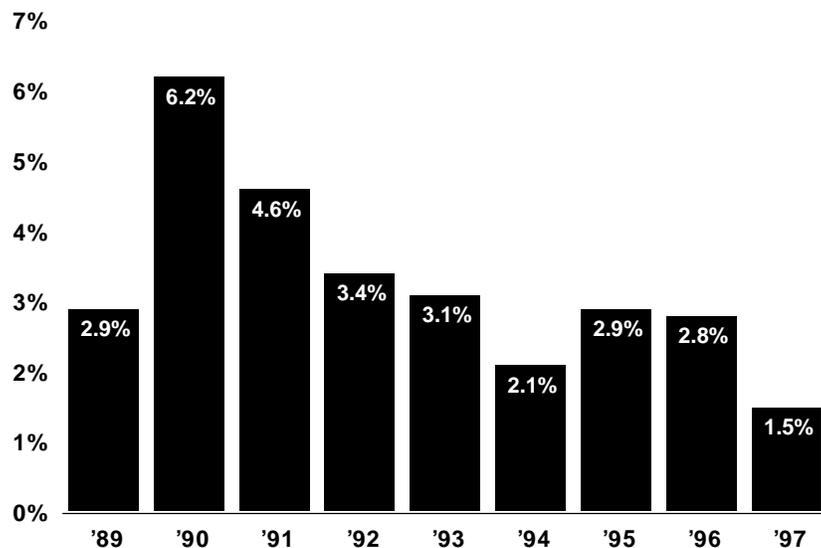
Consumer prices are measured twice a year in Anchorage and are then compared to the previous year's results. The annual percentage change in consumer prices, as measured by the consumer price index for all urban consumers, is usually accepted as the rate of inflation. During the first half of 1997, it became apparent that the rate of inflation for Anchorage had slowed considerably when it measured 1.6%. This trend continued in the second half of 1997 with a rate of a mere 1.2%. On average in 1997 all items in the Anchorage consumer's market basket cost only

(Continued on page 28)

Figure • 1

The Slowest Rate of Inflation in Nine Years

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



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

Table • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska	p/	r/	Changes from:			Municipality of Anchorage	p/	r/	Changes from:		
	1/98	12/97	1/97	12/97	1/97		1/98	12/97	1/97	12/97	1/97
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	252,600	257,700	246,900	-5,100	5,700	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	121,300	125,000	117,500	-3,700	3,800
Goods-producing	30,300	29,100	29,700	1,200	600	Goods-producing	9,600	10,300	9,100	-700	500
Service-producing	222,300	228,600	217,200	-6,300	5,100	Service-producing	111,700	114,700	108,400	-3,000	3,300
Mining	9,700	9,800	8,900	-100	800	Mining	2,400	2,400	2,200	0	200
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,200	8,300	7,600	-100	600	Oil & Gas Extraction	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100
Construction	9,600	11,200	9,400	-1,600	200	Construction	5,300	6,100	5,100	-800	200
Manufacturing	11,000	8,100	11,400	2,900	-400	Manufacturing	1,900	1,800	1,800	100	100
Durable Goods	1,700	2,300	1,700	-600	0	Transportation	12,000	12,200	11,400	-200	600
Lumber & Wood Products	800	1,400	800	-600	0	Air Transportation	5,200	5,300	4,700	-100	500
Nondurable Goods	9,300	5,800	9,700	3,500	-400	Communications	2,400	2,400	2,300	0	100
Seafood Processing	6,600	3,000	6,700	3,600	-100	Trade	30,000	31,300	29,300	-1,300	700
Transportation	22,500	23,000	21,300	-500	1,200	Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,400	6,200	-100	100
Trucking & Warehousing	2,600	2,700	2,600	-100	0	Retail Trade	23,700	24,900	23,100	-1,200	600
Water Transportation	1,500	1,600	1,500	-100	0	Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,500	5,200	4,500	-700	0
Air Transportation	8,100	8,200	7,400	-100	700	Food Stores	2,900	3,000	2,900	-100	0
Communications	4,100	4,200	3,800	-100	300	Eating & Drinking Places	8,400	8,500	8,000	-100	400
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	2,300	2,300	2,100	0	200	Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,100	7,200	6,900	-100	200
Trade	52,500	55,100	51,300	-2,600	1,200	Services & Misc.	34,400	35,200	33,100	-800	1,300
Wholesale Trade	8,400	8,600	8,300	-200	100	Hotels & Lodging Places	2,500	2,600	2,400	-100	100
Retail Trade	44,100	46,500	43,000	-2,400	1,100	Business Services	5,900	6,100	5,800	-200	100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,100	10,000	9,000	-900	100	Health Services	7,600	7,600	7,200	0	400
Food Stores	6,800	6,900	6,700	-100	100	Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	14,100	14,700	13,600	-600	500	Social Services	3,100	3,200	3,000	-100	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,800	12,100	11,600	-300	200	Engineering & Mngmt. Services	5,300	5,500	5,000	-200	300
Services & Misc.	62,700	64,100	60,400	-1,400	2,300	Government	28,200	28,800	27,700	-600	500
Hotels & Lodging Places	5,000	5,400	4,800	-400	200	Federal	9,700	10,000	9,800	-300	-100
Business Services	8,000	8,300	7,900	-300	100	State	8,200	8,500	8,100	-300	100
Health Services	14,800	14,900	14,100	-100	700	Local	10,300	10,300	9,800	0	500
Legal Services	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100						
Social Services	7,000	7,000	6,800	0	200						
Engineering & Mngmt. Services	7,200	7,400	6,800	-200	400						
Government	72,800	74,300	72,600	-1,500	200						
Federal	16,600	17,000	16,800	-400	-200						
State	20,800	21,700	21,200	-900	-400						
Local	35,400	35,600	34,600	-200	800						

Notes to Tables 1,2,3- Nonagricultural also excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers.

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

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

Table • 2

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/	r/	1/97	p/	r/	1/97	p/	r/	1/97
	1/98	12/97	1/97	1/98	12/97	1/97	1/98	12/97	1/97
Mining	\$1,287.14	\$1,320.71	\$1,082.31	48.7	47.8	43.0	\$26.43	\$27.63	\$25.17
Construction	1,018.00	1,013.04	1,049.04	40.9	40.2	42.3	24.89	25.20	24.80
Manufacturing	587.11	581.13	481.99	40.8	43.4	33.8	14.39	13.39	14.26
Seafood Processing	328.64	331.30	316.22	33.5	40.6	32.5	9.81	8.16	9.73
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	630.14	676.85	662.54	33.2	35.4	34.4	18.98	19.12	19.26
Trade	399.50	421.82	409.25	32.8	33.8	33.6	12.18	12.48	12.18
Wholesale	625.50	665.73	614.40	37.5	39.0	38.4	16.68	17.07	16.00
Retail	357.92	378.02	370.82	31.9	32.9	32.7	11.22	11.49	11.34
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	521.50	550.56	518.94	37.9	37.1	36.7	13.76	14.84	14.14

p/ denotes preliminary estimates.

r/ denotes revised estimates.

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

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

Benchmark: March 1997

Table • 4

Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

p/ denotes preliminary estimates

r/ denotes revised estimates

Benchmark: March 1997

Data presented here are intended to show the relative condition of Alaska's labor force for the reference month. Data published for prior years are not necessarily comparable to current information, which does not reflect benchmark revisions.

The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment

opportunities in rural Alaska locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.

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

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	<i>p/</i> 1/98	<i>r/</i> 12/97	1/97
United States	5.2	4.4	5.9
Alaska Statewide	7.8	7.4	10.2
Anch.-MatSu Region	5.9	5.6	7.8
Municipality of Anchorage	5.2	4.9	6.6
MatSu Borough	9.7	8.9	13.5
Gulf Coast Region	13.4	14.4	18.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	14.8	14.3	20.4
Kodiak Island Borough	9.3	16.3	13.4
Valdez-Cordova	13.3	12.2	15.9
Interior Region	8.3	7.2	11.2
Denali Borough	14.4	12.5	16.4
Fairbanks North Star Borough	7.4	6.6	10.1
Southeast Fairbanks	14.6	10.6	17.9
Yukon-Koyukuk	16.7	13.4	21.5
Northern Region	7.4	7.1	10.6
Nome	8.7	7.8	11.7
North Slope Borough	4.5	4.9	5.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	10.1	9.5	17.2
Southeast Region	10.6	9.0	12.4
Haines Borough	17.3	13.9	21.5
Juneau Borough	6.9	6.7	8.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	11.1	9.0	13.1
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	19.5	12.6	21.2
Sitka Borough	7.4	7.9	9.7
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	12.7	9.9	11.4
Wrangell-Petersburg	17.2	14.6	19.1
Yakutat Borough	16.0	12.5	10.2
Southwest Region	8.5	9.7	8.9
Aleutians East Borough	4.8	6.9	7.1
Aleutians West	6.5	8.5	6.7
Bethel	7.9	8.7	8.6
Bristol Bay Borough	13.2	14.0	10.8
Dillingham	7.6	8.0	8.7
Lake & Peninsula Borough	9.8	7.8	7.6
Wade Hampton	14.3	16.6	13.8
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	4.7	4.7	5.3
Alaska Statewide	6.2	7.0	7.5

(Continued from page 25)

1.5% more than a year ago—the smallest increase in nine years. (See Figure 1.) In an over-the-year comparison, consumer prices during the second half of 1997 rose moderately in four categories: housing, transportation, entertainment, and food and beverages. Health care costs rose 7.0%. However, prices fell 2.4% in the apparel and upkeep consumer expenditure category. Of total expenditures in the Anchorage area, consumers spend most on housing (about 40 percent), which increased a modest 0.6%.

Export woes

The Asian economic flu has hit Alaska's export industries. The oil, fertilizer manufacturing, seafood, timber, industrial and precious metal industries are all feeling the chill. The high U. S. dollar, compared to many Pacific Rim currencies, has worsened the market position of Alaska's exports. Additionally, global competition continues to grow and Asian consumers have started to cut their consumption of some Alaska commodities.

The Asian crisis is already affecting employment in some industries. A timber industry firm, for example, prolonged a winter break to slow production. Unocal has announced layoffs at its Kenai fertilizer plant. Although the drop in gold prices does not directly relate to the Asian crisis, a diminished demand for jewelry in Asian markets has been noted. One placer gold operator has already laid off workers because the current low gold prices are not sufficient to cover the company's production costs. Another, the Alaska Gold Company of Nome, employing an average workforce of about 70, will begin layoffs in April. In January 1998, oil prices averaged just \$14.43 per barrel. Soon, state government will feel the pinch in the form of diminished oil revenues. Seafood processors fear that this year's crab, herring and salmon harvests will be even harder to sell on Asian markets than in previous years.