

Click Bishop
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper
Communications Director

907.465.2700
cell: 907.723.1321
beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 27, 2009

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 09-06

For more information: **Brian Rae, Economist**
907-465-5883, Brian.Rae@Alaska.Gov

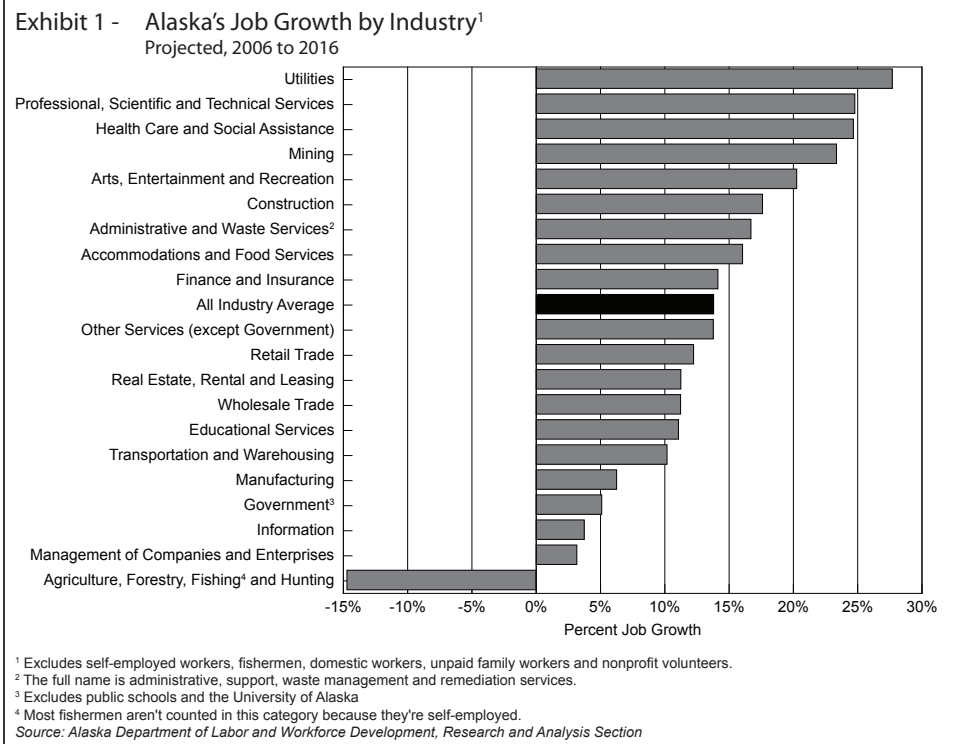
Alaska to add almost 44,000 jobs from 2006 to 2016

JUNEAU, Alaska—Alaska will increase its job base by almost 14 percent in the decade which will end in 2016, according to projections of industry and occupational employment released by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

“The Research and Analysis Section’s 10-year projections are used in career guidance, education and training program planning, and studying long-range employment trends,” Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop said.

The projections, which are updated every two years, provide information to individuals who are making education and training choices, entering the job market or changing careers.

Over the 2006-16 decade, total employment is projected to increase by 43,768 jobs, or 13.9 percent. This is less than the 51,200 new jobs added – 19 percent growth – during the 1996-2006 decade.



In addition to the new jobs projected for the 2006-2016 timeframe, there is expected to be an additional 74,000 job openings occurring as a result of replacing workers who change occupations, retire or leave the labor force for various reasons.

Industry Employment

While average employment growth is expected to be 13.9 percent during the forecast period, some industry sectors will outperform this growth rate. Continuing its recent trend, the health care and social assistance industry sector is projected to outperform most with a 24.8 percent rate of growth. Two other industries are projected to grow slightly faster – utilities at 27.8 percent and professional, scientific and technical services at 24.9 percent – but the size of the health care industry means employment gains will more than double those of any other industry. Other sectors in the economy projecting well above average gains include mining, and arts, entertainment and recreation.

Both mining and construction jobs are projected to grow faster than average over the 2006-2016 period. Although these projections do not include direct employment from the construction of a natural gas pipeline in Alaska, they do assume new construction and maintenance activities on Alaska’s infrastructure related to pipeline construction.

Underperforming industries include government, manufacturing – mainly seafood processing – and information services. The agricultural related industries, historically dominated by the forestry and logging industry, will continue to see declines over the forecast period.

Occupational Employment

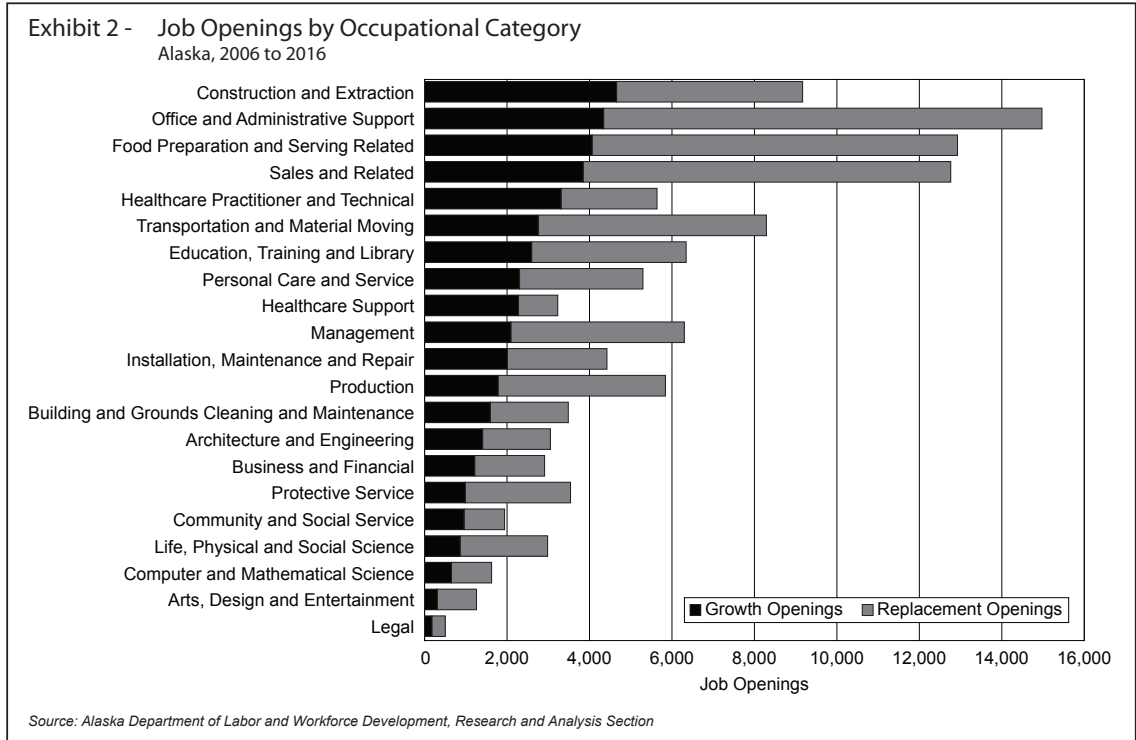
Out of 21 major occupational categories, the greatest number of new job openings between 2006- 2016 is projected within the construction and extraction category of workers followed closely by office and administrative support, food preparation and serving, and sales- related workers.

Occupational growth within both health care occupational categories is expected to grow faster than average during the projection period reflecting the growth forecast in the health care related industries. Doctors, therapists, nurses and home health aides are just a few occupations expected to be in high demand.

Administrative support, food preparation and serving and sales occupations are expected to provide job seekers with the largest number of total job openings – a combination of growth and worker replacement openings – through 2016.

Education Pays

Pursuing an associate degree or continued vocational training allows job seekers to compete for jobs paying twice as much on average as jobs requiring only short-term on-the-job training. In addition, these jobs are normally less vulnerable to seasonality, providing a more stable stream of income than many jobs requiring less training or experience.



For more information about the Research and Analysis industry and occupational employment projections, look on the web at <http://laborstats.alaska.gov/> and click onto the *Occupational Information and Industry Information* links on the left menu bar. The January 2009 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*, which will also be available at this link, includes an article discussing the 2006-2016 employment projections.