

ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS



BARROW - THE ARCTIC CAPITAL

ALASKA'S WORK FORCE
IS STILL GROWING

TECHNICAL JOBS IN ALASKA

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

December 1994

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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Technical Jobs in Alaska in 1993

by Jeff Hadland, Paul Engelman and Kristen Tromble

Approximately 30,500 workers, or about 9 percent of all private sector, state or local government workers in Alaska received the majority of their 1993 wage and salary earnings in a technical occupation. (Federal government worker information is not available on the Alaska Department of Labor wage file.)

The Alaska Department of Labor used the Occupational Data Base (ODB) as the primary information source to identify Alaska's technical workers. The ODB contains quarterly earnings, place of work, industry, employer and occupation for Alaska wage and salary workers. Occupation data is available for more than 92 percent of all workers reported on the Alaska Department of Labor wage file.

Alaska's technical workers identified

Based on a review of job skills and requirements, a list of ninety unique occupational categories were identified as technical occupations. Technical occupations were defined as *occupations which require training in the application of a specific process, especially of, relating to, or involving the practical, mechanical or applied sciences, to achieve a commercial or industrial objective.* These occupations provide assistance and support to engineers, scientists, and other professional workers. Additional factors in the selection of technical occupations included the type of training required, the duration of the training, and the overall level of education needed to do the work.

All workers employed in one of the technical occupations at some time in 1993 were extracted from the ODB. If the technical workers had earned the majority of their earnings in 1993 in that technical occupation, they were selected and considered technical workers for purposes of this study. Earnings and employment history data were then extracted for each individual for 1992 and 1993 in order to determine the average earnings,

number of quarters worked, industry in which they were employed and whether they were a new hire to the firm. Eighty-seven of the 90 selected occupations had workers and wages in Alaska in 1993.

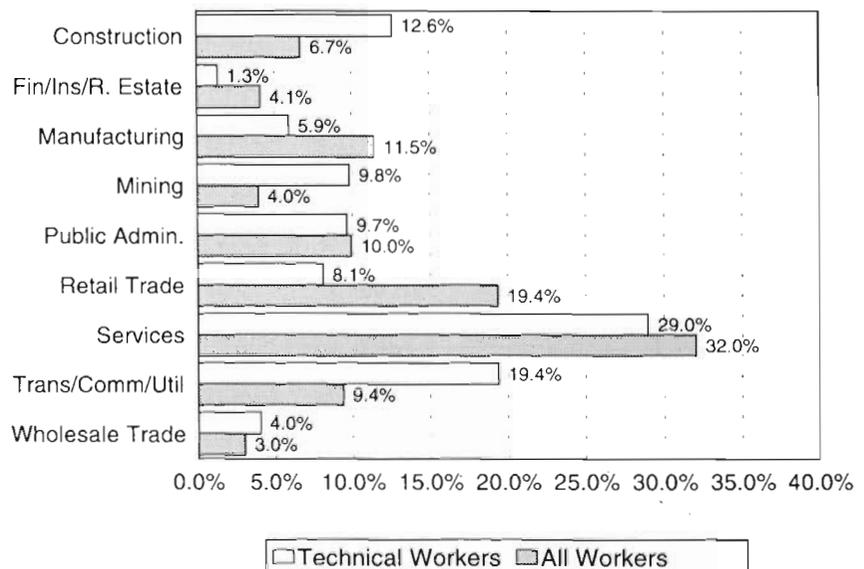
Technical workers are employed in all parts of Alaska and in all industries. Although the largest percent of technical workers are employed in the service industries, technical workers have a relatively higher representation in the mining, construction, transportation and wholesale trade industries. (See Figure 1.)

More than half of all technical workers were employed in the top ten occupational categories. (See Table 1.) More than one quarter of all technical jobs were mechanics of various types. Industrial, electrical and machine repairers were the next largest broad technical occupational category.

Jeff Hadland is an economist; Paul Engelman is a labor economist; and Kristen Tromble is a statistical technician. They are all located in Juneau with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor.

Figure • 1

Employment by Industry for All Workers and Technical Workers Calendar Year 1993



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

T a b l e • 1

Top Ten Technical Occupations by the Number of Jobs Calendar Year 1993

Occupation	Average Wage	Number
Mechanics and Repairers, Not Elsewhere Classified	\$32,507	2,844
Electricians	34,427	2,291
Airplane Pilots and Navigators	48,849	2,121
Automobile Mechanics	22,991	2,108
Heavy Equipment Mechanics	40,260	1,877
Health Technologists and Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	23,827	1,291
Welders and Cutters	31,634	1,287
Communications Equipment Repairers	44,137	911
Science Technologists and Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	22,689	783
Drafting Occupations	30,782	720

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

Earnings

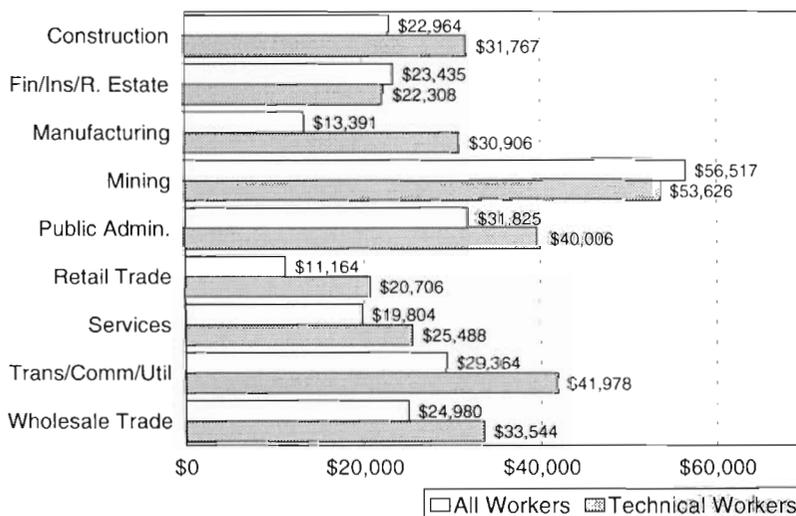
Average earnings per worker were calculated for each occupation. Occupations with large turnover (high number of workers per job), or large numbers of seasonal workers would necessarily have a lower average wage, even if their wage rate was the same. Given these limitations, technical workers earned, on average, approximately \$33,750 in 1993. Their total wages exceeded \$1.0 billion. Sixty-five percent of technical workers worked all four quarters of the year.

For those occupations with more than 100 workers, the highest average annual earnings were received by mechanical control and valve repairers, electrical and electronic repairers, airplane pilots and navigators, programmers and electrical power installers and repairers.

Technical workers employed in the oil/mining industry earned the most, at an average of \$53,626, while those employed in the retail trade industry earned the least (\$20,706). (See Figure 2.)

F i g u r e • 2

Average Annual Wage by Industry All Workers and Technical Workers Calendar Year 1993



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

Gender differences of technical workers

Technical jobs in Alaska are primarily male-dominated occupations. A match of technical worker wage records with the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend file indicates that while women filled 46.9% of all jobs in Alaska in 1993, they were employed in only about 18 percent of all technical jobs during that same year. (See Figure 3.) A low percentage of female employment in an occupation could represent an employment and training opportunity.

Women working in technical jobs earned on average only 71% as much as men. (See Figure 4.) However, there were some occupations where women's earnings exceeded those of men including: household appliance repairers, nurses, petroleum technologists and technicians, dental hygienists and biological technologists and technicians (except health).

Top Ten Technical Occupations that Employed More Women than Men in 1993

Occupation	Female		Male		Percent Female in Occupation
	Average Wage	Number	Average Wage	Number	
Dental Hygienists	\$29,316	282	\$27,209	11	96.2
Licensed Practical Nurses	25,513	422	21,902	25	94.4
Health Record Technologists and Technicians	22,558	234	30,330	24	90.7
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	29,511	229	33,261	64	78.2
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	33,171	140	45,160	55	71.8
Optical Goods Workers	15,914	57	22,735	24	70.4
Health Technologists and Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	22,593	710	32,216	339	67.7
Photographic Process Workers	15,265	67	21,165	63	51.5
Chemical Technologists and Technicians	32,038	28	41,176	28	50.0
Cartographic Technicians	33,172	26	36,695	27	49.1

Note: Excludes occupations with fewer than 50 workers.

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

Women earned the most in the following occupations: mechanical controls and valve repairers, electronic and electrical repairers, petroleum technologists and technicians and telephone line installers and repairers. Women held more than 60 percent of the jobs in the following technical occupations: dental hygienists, licensed practical nurses, health record technologists, clinical laboratory technicians, radiologic technologists and technicians, optical goods workers, health technologists and technicians, miscellaneous precision printing occupations and precision hand molders and shapers (except jewelers).

In occupations in which there were more than 50 women reported working in 1993, their highest annual average earnings were achieved in programmers-scientific, communications equipment repairers, programmers-business, engineering technologists and technicians not elsewhere classified, and radiologic technologists and technicians. Table 2 shows occupations which have the highest percentage of women.

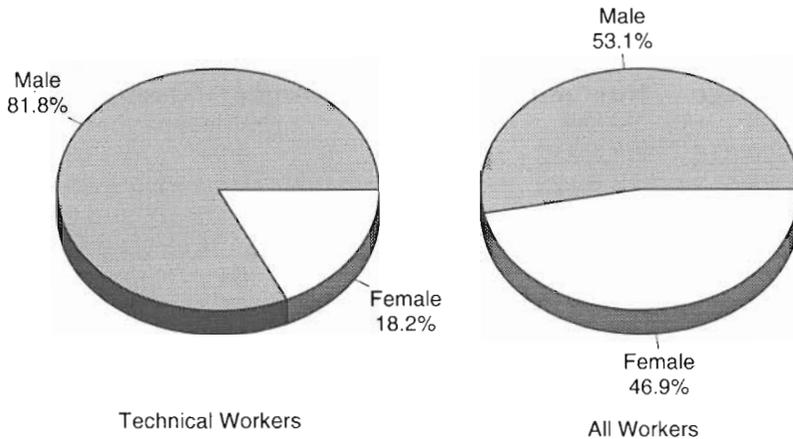
Men held more than 98 percent of all jobs in the following occupations: small engine repairers, aircraft mechanics, bus/diesel engine mechanics, heavy equipment mechanics, millwrights, automobile mechanics, machinists, and electrical and electronic repairers.

Some technical jobs more likely filled by younger workers

The average age of technical workers in 1993 is estimated to be 38 based upon a match with recent Permanent Fund Dividend applicant data. Photographic process workers, drafting occupations, mechanical control and valve repairers and marine equipment mechanics have a much lower than average age. Welders, engineering technologists not elsewhere classified, and diesel engine mechanics have a higher than average age. (See Figure 5.)

Figure • 3

**Employment by Gender 1993
All Workers and Technical Workers**



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

**Nonresidents working
in technical jobs**

A large number of nonresidents is one indicator of a lack of trained and available Alaska workers in a particular occupation. In order to estimate the number of nonresidents working by occupation, each individual's wage record was matched with the most recent Permanent Fund Dividend file. This conservative measure of residency provides a good indicator of the number of nonresidents or new residents.

In 1993, nonresidents earned approximately three-fourths as much as residents in technical occupations. (See Table 3.) This difference was due primarily to the fact that nonresidents work, on average, fewer quarters during the year. Nonresidents held approximately 19 percent of all technical jobs, lower than the rate for all Alaska jobs. (The Alaska Department of Labor estimated that 23.7% of all workers in Alaska in 1992 were nonresidents). The technical occupations with the largest percent nonresidents were machin-

Table • 3

**Top Ten Technical Occupations with the
Largest Number of Nonresident Workers in 1993**

Occupation	Resident		Nonresident		Percent Non-resident in Occupation
	Average Wage	Number	Average Wage	Number	
Airplane Pilots and Navigators	\$45,559	1,247	\$53,544	874	41.2
Science Technologists and Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	23,603	569	20,259	214	27.3
Aircraft Mechanics (except engine specialists)	30,274	440	17,992	175	28.5
Heating, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics	33,495	435	22,003	161	27.0
Machinery Maintenance Mechanics, Marine Equipment	21,970	58	18,079	147	71.7
Millwrights	47,380	211	41,132	110	34.3
Machinists	31,114	172	21,330	99	36.5
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	36,237	198	20,996	75	27.5
Precision Inspectors, Testers and Graders	35,955	49	35,919	48	49.5
Camera, Watch and Other Precision Instrument Repairers	39,979	77	23,008	28	26.7

Note: Excludes occupations with fewer than 50 workers. Residency based upon a match of technical workers with the 1993 Permanent Fund Dividend file.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

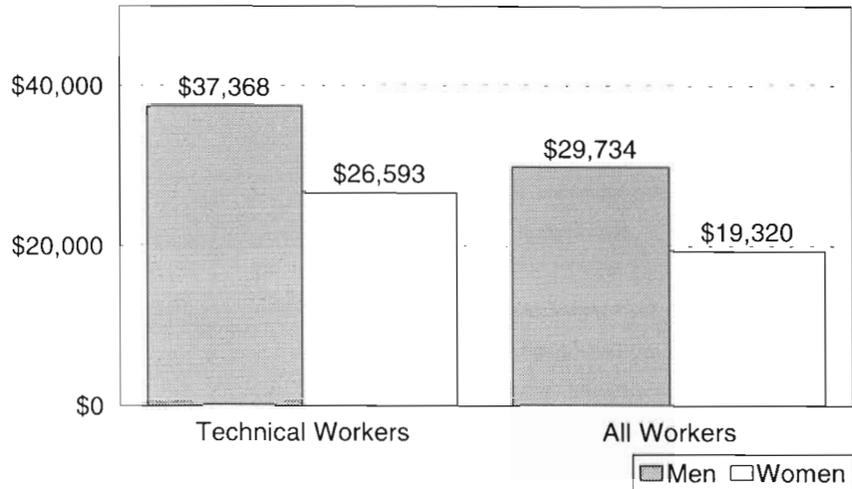
ery maintenance mechanics (marine equipment), precision inspectors, airplane pilots and navigators, machinists and millwrights. Many of the jobs held by nonresidents required relatively longer periods of training.

Occupational turnover and new hires

In order to determine if a technical worker was a new hire to the firm, the individual was tracked during each of the four quarters of 1992 to determine if they had worked for that firm at any time during the year. If they were new to the firm, they were considered a new hire. Overall, about 39 percent of all technical workers in 1993 had not worked for the same firm in 1992. (See Table 4.)

Employees in some technical occupations were much more likely to change employers. Boilermakers, precision inspectors, welders, sheet metal workers, and electricians were much more likely to work for a different employer than were cartographic technicians, programmers-scientific, telephone installers or mechanical controls and valve repairers.

Average Annual Wage by Gender for Calendar Year 1993



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

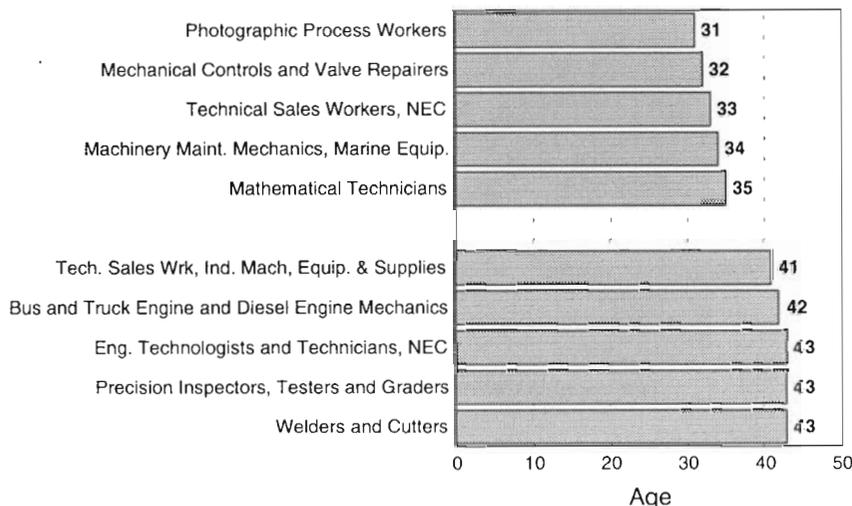
Top Ten Technical Occupations by Percent Workers that Were New Hires in 1993

Occupation	Average Wage	Number	Percent New Hires
Boilermakers	\$27,160	52	65.4
Precision Inspectors, Testers and Graders	35,937	97	62.9
Welders and Cutters	31,634	1,287	60.2
Sheet Metal Workers	32,501	264	57.2
Electricians	34,427	2,291	56.7
Surveying Technicians	25,302	263	53.6
Technical Sales Workers, Not Elsewhere Classified	23,915	64	51.6
Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	25,897	181	49.7
Petroleum Technologists and Technicians	40,828	510	49.4
Household Appliance and Power Tool Repairers	21,234	185	48.6

Note: Excludes occupations with fewer than 50 workers.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 5

Technical Occupations with the Oldest and Youngest Average Ages Calendar Year 1993



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

Which technical occupations present the greatest opportunity for employment?

Technical occupation categories with large numbers of workers, large numbers of non-residents, high average wage and high turnover seem to be good occupations to consider when looking at employment or training. Each occupation was ranked based upon these four factors. A combined ranking that derived from the sum of these four rankings was calculated. The top opportunity occupations were airplane pilots and navigators, heavy equipment mechanics, electricians, mechanics and repairers, not elsewhere classified, electrical power installers and repairers, welders and cutters, communications equipment repairers, industrial machinery repairers, petroleum technologists and technicians, bus and truck engine and diesel engine mechanics, millwrights.

Table • 5

**Alaska Technical Occupation Summary Table
Calendar Year 1993**

	Average Wage	Average Number	Average Age	Percent Female	Percent Nonresident	Percent New Hires	Expected Growth Rate to 1997
Air Traffic Controllers (See Note 1)	\$15,710	68	33	71.4	13.2	42.6	0.0
Aircraft Engine Mechanics	31,038	583	37	3.3	18.9	35.5	NA
Aircraft Mechanics (except engine specialists)	26,779	615	36	0.9	28.5	38.0	1.1
Airplane Pilots and Navigators	48,849	2,121	40	3.0	41.2	37.2	1.7
Automobile Mechanics	22,991	2,108	34	1.6	14.8	44.6	0.9
Baader Technologists	41,871	12	42	0.0	50.0	16.7	NA
Biological Technologists and Technicians, Except Health	22,170	255	36	34.1	7.1	16.9	0.2
Boilermakers	27,160	52	41	5.1	11.5	65.4	NA
Bus and Truck Engine and Diesel Engine Mechanics	34,128	664	38	1.2	18.2	36.1	1.1
Camera, Watch and Other Precision Instrument Repairers	35,453	105	40	10.8	26.7	40.0	-0.2
Cartographic Technicians	34,501	57	35	49.1	7.0	8.8	NA
Chemical Technologists and Technicians	37,699	65	35	50.0	12.3	32.3	0.8
Clinical Laboratory Technologists and Technicians	28,165	383	39	78.2	22.5	26.9	1.3
Communications Equipment Repairers	44,137	911	41	6.7	8.9	25.0	-0.4
Data Processing Equipment Repairers	39,107	118	37	6.7	10.2	30.5	2.7
Dental Hygienists	27,069	366	36	96.2	18.6	41.8	3.1
Dental Laboratory Technicians	18,094	36	34	41.4	19.4	27.8	1.0
Drafting Occupations	30,782	720	36	29.9	15.4	34.4	0.2
Electric Motor, Transformer and Related Repairers	35,304	18	41	0.0	33.3	27.8	0.0
Electrical Power Installers and Repairers	47,323	615	41	3.9	12.4	43.3	NA
Electrical and Electronic Engineering Technologists and Technicians	44,426	359	40	7.4	17.8	27.9	1.6
Electrical and Electronic Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment	52,150	311	43	1.8	10.0	28.9	0.5

Alaska Technical Occupation Summary Table Calendar Year 1993

	Average Wage	Average Number	Average Age	Percent Female	Percent Nonresident	Percent New Hires	Expected Growth Rate to 1997
Electricians	\$34,427	2,291	39	4.0	19.8	56.7	2.1
Electronic Repairers, Home Entertainment Equipment	16,716	97	35	8.3	10.3	41.2	NA
Elevator Installers and Repairers	34,759	19	37	0.0	31.6	36.8	1.0
Engineering Technologists and Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	38,599	690	39	23.3	11.9	26.8	0.6
Engravers	8,751	12	31	40.0	16.7	58.3	NA
Farm Equipment Mechanics (See Note 2)							
Health Record Technologists and Technicians	22,527	284	37	90.7	7.4	23.9	2.3
Health Technologists and Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	23,827	1,291	36	67.7	16.8	34.9	2.7
Heating, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics	30,391	596	35	2.7	27.0	44.6	2.2
Heavy Equipment Mechanics	40,260	1,877	40	1.3	18.7	38.0	-0.3
Household Appliance and Power Tool Repairers	21,234	185	37	17.1	12.4	48.6	1.8
Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians	25,897	181	31	33.8	18.8	49.7	NA
Industrial Machinery Repairers	36,983	694	40	4.6	19.0	29.8	NA
Land Surveyors	29,991	496	38	7.1	11.9	42.1	0.2
Lay-out Workers	31,673	22	40	37.5	22.7	54.5	-1.5
Licensed Practical Nurses	23,034	564	41	94.4	17.9	26.2	2.3
Locksmiths and Safe Repairers	22,169	34	36	3.6	11.8	20.6	0.4
Machinery Maintenance Mechanics, Marine Equipment Machinists	19,180 27,540	205 271	36 40	2.0 1.8	71.7 36.5	39.5 36.5	NA -0.1
Mathematical Technicians (See Note 2)							
Mechanical Controls and Valve Repairers	66,881	179	42	5.0	14.0	12.3	-0.5
Mechanical Engineering Technologists and Technicians	45,099	53	37	2.2	11.3	20.8	NA
Mechanics and Repairers, Not Elsewhere Classified	32,507	2,844	39	9.8	11.1	34.5	0.8
Millwrights	45,239	321	43	1.6	34.3	39.6	1.1
Miscellaneous Electrical and Electronic Equipment Repairers	36,976	326	39	29.0	9.2	32.2	0.6
Miscellaneous Precision Metal Workers	17,822	8	29	0.0	25.0	87.5	0.0
Miscellaneous Precision Printing Occupations	16,713	10	32	66.7	10.0	50.0	1.3
Musical Instrument Repairers and Tuners	40,057	13	39	9.1	7.7	15.4	NA
Nuclear Technologists and Technicians (See Note 2)							
Office Machine Repairers	27,448	99	35	10.7	11.1	30.3	-0.2
Optical Goods Workers	16,497	110	35	70.4	23.6	45.5	2.6
Petroleum Technologists and Technicians	40,828	510	35	12.0	15.7	49.4	-2.4
Photographic Process Workers	16,565	155	32	51.5	16.1	40.6	NA
Precision Adjusters and Calibrators (See Note 2)							
Precision Assemblers (metal)	18,662	14	41	33.3	14.3	50.0	NA
Precision Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	16,175	9	28	0.0	33.3	88.9	NA
Precision Hand Molders and Shapers (except jewelers)	5,337	14	29	60.0	28.6	78.6	NA
Precision Hand Molders and Shapers (jewelers)	23,901	36	34	21.4	19.4	50.0	NA
Precision Inspectors, Testers and Graders	35,937	97	38	13.0	49.5	62.9	NA
Precision Lithographers and Photoengravers	17,997	10	32	11.1	10.0	40.0	NA
Precision Patternmakers, Lay-out Workers and Cutters (See Note 2)							
Precision Typesetters	12,610	12	32	50.0	25.0	66.7	NA
Programmers, Business	42,156	315	37	34.3	12.4	23.5	2.2
Programmers, Numerical, Tool and Process Control (See Note 2)							
Programmers, Scientific	48,715	315	39	34.2	5.4	10.8	NA
Radio and Related Operators	23,850	311	35	48.3	14.8	32.2	NA
Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	32,050	273	39	71.9	27.5	30.0	3.5
Sales Engineers	42,662	203	38	15.5	13.3	28.6	1.0
Science Technologists and Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	22,689	783	36	40.7	27.3	47.1	-0.1
Sheet Metal Workers	32,501	264	39	2.6	20.5	57.2	3.1

Table • 5 (cont.)

Alaska Technical Occupation Summary Table Calendar Year 1993

	Average Wage	Average Number	Average Age	Percent Female	Percent Nonresident	Percent New Hires	Expected Growth Rate to 1997
Small Engine Repairers	\$20,844	292	32	0.0	13.7	46.2	0.7
Supervisors: Precision Production Occupations	44,098	114	41	19.8	7.9	25.4	0.1
Surveying Technicians	25,302	263	37	9.8	7.6	53.6	-0.2
Surveying and Mapping Technicians, Not Elsewhere Classified	30,283	37	36	16.7	10.8	40.5	NA
Technical Sales Workers, Agricultural Equipment and Supplies (See Note 2)							
Technical Sales Workers, Aircraft	26,076	13	37	23.1	0.0	38.5	-0.5
Technical Sales Workers, Chemicals and Chemical Products	47,407	38	40	17.9	23.7	39.5	NA
Technical Sales Workers, Electronic Equipment	27,567	179	35	25.7	12.3	40.8	NA
Technical Sales Workers, Industrial Machinery, Equipment & Supplies	35,429	152	36	16.3	11.2	36.8	NA
Technical Sales Workers, Medical and Dental Equipment & Supplies	44,810	36	36	50.0	25.0	30.6	NA
Technical Sales Workers, Not Elsewhere Classified	23,915	64	35	24.5	14.1	51.6	NA
Telephone Installers and Repairers	51,488	79	43	6.4	0.0	11.4	-2.0
Telephone Line Installers and Repairers	43,236	253	41	14.0	9.9	27.3	-0.5
Tool and Die Makers (See Note 2)							
Welders and Cutters	31,634	1,287	37	2.2	25.6	60.2	1.4
Technical Occupation Summary	33,751	30,478	38	18.2	19.0	38.8	NA

Note 1: Air traffic controllers excludes federal government employees. Primarily small air carrier personnel.

Note 2: Occupations with fewer than 6 workers are not discloseable.

NA = Not Available.

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

Barrow — The Arctic Capital

by Brigitta Windisch-Cole

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

Prior to World War II, commercial whaling, reindeer herding, and trapping made up Barrow's economy. Located on the Chukchi Sea on the northern coast of Alaska, Barrow's annual temperature averages only 9 degrees Fahrenheit. Cold winters and cool summers with little annual precipitation are the typical climate for this region. Within this environment Barrow, the northernmost

community, has evolved from a small village into an important administrative headquarters.

In 1944, the U.S. Navy's petroleum exploration program started collecting geological data and drilling test wells. The government's campsite became known as the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL). At its

peak the campsite housed 300 federal employees and employed 100 civilian workers. By 1983, only thirty employees remained to take care of the facility.

The discovery of large petroleum and gas reservoirs approximately 400 miles east of Barrow changed the community forever. In 1972, the Arctic coast region incorporated as the North Slope Borough. As a political unit, it received authorization to levy property taxes. Substantial revenues from the oil fields fill the borough's coffers to support a large public sector. (See Figure 1.) Property values, mainly the oil and gas tracts, exceed that of any other regional taxing jurisdiction in the state. Regional per capita tax revenue was nearly \$35,000 in 1993.

The people of Barrow

Between 1980 and 1993, Barrow's population increased by over 1,719 residents. This 76% growth was well above the statewide rate of 49%. The 1993 population estimate of 3,986 makes Barrow the twelfth largest city in the state. Over half of the borough's population resides in Barrow. According to the 1990 census, the median resident age is 27.2, versus Alaska's median age of 29.4. (See Table 1.) Alaska Natives, mainly Inupiat, comprise almost 66 percent of the population and have a median age of 22.6 years.

Barrow's median 1989 household income was 37% above the state's average. This community's income picture shows that over 19 percent of households earned above \$100,000.

In 1985, the management consultants of the McDowell Group compared costs of living between Alaskan communities and found that residents of Barrow had the highest cost of living in the state. Back in 1985, Barrow's cost of living was 45% above Anchorage's. The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation confirms that Barrow is still the most expensive city in Alaska in which to build. In a 1994 comparison, the cost of basic construction materials for residential housing was 75% above Anchorage's. Just in December of 1993, the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service found that cost of food for a family of four with elementary school children was 114% above Anchorage's.

Public sector employs most of the labor force

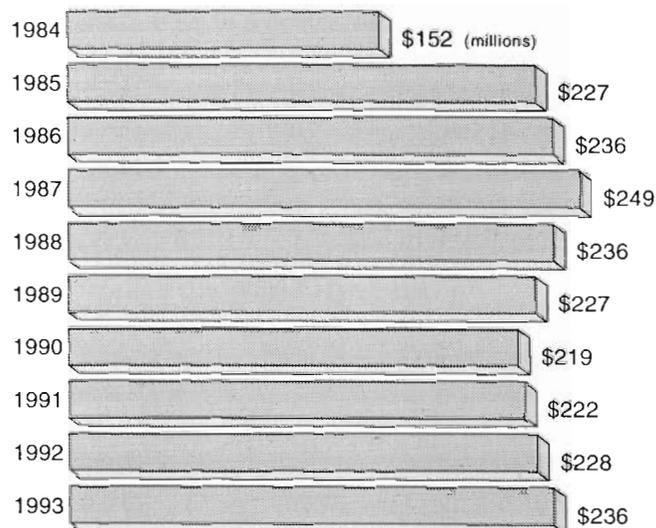
The borough government, with its Barrow headquarters, is a major economic force. According to the borough, about 980 of its employees are located in Barrow. This represents two-thirds of the entire North Slope Borough's government work force. Barrow is also the administrative center of the region's school district. The district employs about 400 people in town. While local government employment is still growing, federal employment decreased over the years. The state retains only 32 people on its payroll. The combined public sector employment, however, represents 67% of the work force. (See Figure 2.)

Private sector employment is small—but growing

During the past five years private sector employment grew by 293 jobs. The construction industry is the largest private sector employer. (See Figure 2.) With the borough's significant capital improvement budget in

Figure • 1

Tax Collections Are Substantial



Source: North Slope Borough, Budget Document FY 94-95.

T a b l e • 1

A Snapshot of the City of Barrow Statistics from the 1990 Census

Compared to Alaska as a whole...	Barrow	Alaska
Barrow's population grew more rapidly...		
Percent change 1980-1990 (1990 Population = 3,465)	52.8%	36.9%
And is younger...		
Median age	27.2	29.4
Percent under 5 years old	16.6%	10.0%
Percent 21 years & over	53.9%	64.5%
Percent 65 years & over	3.4%	4.1%
Alaska Natives are the majority...		
Percent White	26.1%	75.5%
Percent American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	64.0%	15.6%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	8.0%	3.6%
Percent other races including Blacks	1.9%	5.3%
Percent other incl. Hispanic and Blacks	2.9%	3.2%
Labor force participation is high; especially for women...		
Percent of all 16 years + in labor force	78.6%	74.7%
Percent males 16+ in labor force	81.5%	82.1%
Percent males unemployed	13.3%	10.0%
Percent females 16+ in labor force	75.3%	66.4%
Percent females unemployed	9.3%	7.3%
Most households make more money, and more make over \$100,000...		
Median household income in 1989	\$56,688	\$41,408
Percent of households below poverty level	7.5%	8.0%
Percent with less than \$5,000 income	2.7%	3.5%
Percent with \$5,000-\$9,999 income	3.8%	4.8%
Percent with \$10,000-\$14,999 income	3.3%	6.4%
Percent with \$15,000-\$24,499 income	7.4%	13.3%
Percent with \$25,000-\$34,999 income	8.5%	13.6%
Percent with \$35,000-\$49,999 income	16.3%	18.5%
Percent with \$50,000-\$74,999 income	19.2%	21.3%
Percent with \$75,000-\$99,999 income	19.4%	10.9%
Percent with \$100,000 or more income	19.2%	7.7%
Renters pay more ...		
Median Gross Rent	\$767	\$559
Percent rented for less than \$200	2.2%	1.7%
Percent rented for \$200-\$299	3.2%	5.4%
Percent rented for \$300-\$499	13.1%	27.8%
Percent rented for \$500-\$749	25.2%	29.8%
Percent rented for \$750-\$999	23.3%	12.8%
Percent rented for \$1,000 or more	23.6%	9.1%
Percent with no cash rent	9.4%	13.5%

Note: People of Hispanic origin may be included in any racial category. Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

the implementation phase or on drawing boards, construction's top ranking comes as no surprise. Some private companies have branched into various enterprises. For example, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) with twenty subsidiary companies in Alaska and the Lower 48, has several companies operating in Barrow. This Native corporation specializes in arctic construction as SKW/Eskimo Inc., supplies fuel for Barrow as Eskimo Inc., and controls the operations of the Top of the World Hotel. Currently the Piquiniq Management Corporation, another ASRC affiliate, is negotiating a contract with the borough to take over management of the community college. This may put seventy-seven of the borough workers on the private sector payroll.

Because of the small size of Barrow's private companies, slight changes in the number of employees per company can shift the ranking of the top ten employers from year to year. Consequently, no single dominant private employer has emerged. (See Table 2.)

The pulse of the economy is local government

Local government spurs continuous economic development and growth. New residential and public buildings and improved infrastructure have changed Barrow's looks dramatically. The borough government now has plans for capital projects worth \$1 billion. This will boost construction employment.

Over the years the borough has added significantly to the residential housing inventory. It has become one of Barrow's largest landlords, owning 21% of all available housing units. The borough also became the provider and operator of a rather unique service for government as the operator of laundromats.

Borough's revenues more stable than state's

While state revenues fluctuate daily with oil prices, tax dollars for the North Slope Borough are less vulnerable to volatile market

conditions. The valuation of the land leases and oil industry structures are closely related to exploration and production activities. Over time the values of the oil and gas properties are subject to change. Depreciation of structures and depletion of the resource continuously cut into their valuation. But new discoveries, new structures, and improvements avoid dramatic changes in the value of the tax base.

Hedging for the future

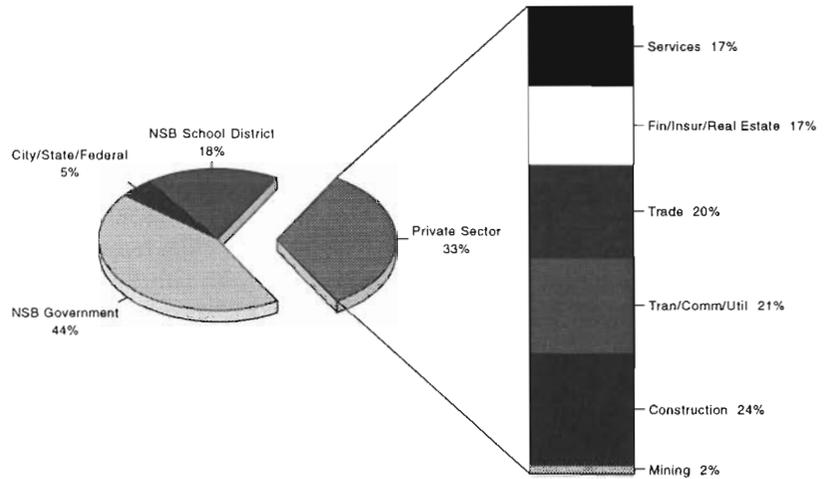
The permanent fund, low maintenance public construction, and education are examples of the borough's plans for the region's future. Barrow is using the wealth created by Alaska's oil industries to improve the lives of its residents today and to help them prepare for the future.

In preparation for declining tax revenues, the North Slope Borough has established a permanent fund. Whenever government's income exceeds expenditures, the leftover dollars feed the existing fund's investment base. As of 1994, the value of the fund was \$287 million. Earnings from investments are earmarked to provide public services.

Because of the high costs of construction, future service of debt and maintenance budgets remain issues of concern in the community. Consideration of future costs is a decisive factor in public construction. Especially in this region, harsh climatic conditions challenge the endurance of any type of structure.

In Barrow, the borough offers a wide range of opportunities to obtain basic and continuing education. The 1994 operating budget set aside \$15.5 million for various job training programs including the Arctic Sivunmun Ilisagvik College, a community college.

Barrow's Largest Employer Is the North Slope Borough



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

Barrow's Ten Largest Private Employers

Rank	Firm	1993 Annual Avg. Employment
*1	Alaska Commercial Company	72
*2	Arctic Slope Regional Corporation	60
*3	Cape Smythe Air Service Inc.	55
4	Barrow Utilities & Electric Coop.	54
5	Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation	51
6	Top of the World Hotel Inc.	24
7	Eskimos Inc.	15
8	Ukpeagvik Arctic Slope	15
9	Silakkguagvik Communications Inc.	13
10	Inupiat Water (Tate Enterprises)	11

* Adjusted by employers for Barrow employment count
 Published with permission of employers.
 Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Alaska's Work Force Is Still Growing

by Neal Fried

With the recent reports of layoffs in the oil, timber and mining industries it would be easy to conclude that Alaska's economy is going through a period of downsizing. However, the job count in September remains 5,200 ahead of year-ago numbers. (See Table 1.) For the first nine months of 1994 the state's wage and salary employment is running 2.2% higher than 1993 levels. This is not to say all is rosy on Alaska's job front. Some regions of the state such as the Southeast, Southwest and the Northern regions are experiencing overall employment declines. (See Table 3.) And a growing list of Alaska's industries, including nonoil-related mining, oil and timber are losing ground. In spite of this spate of bad news the pluses in the economy continue to outweigh the negatives.

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The state's unadjusted unemployment rate did creep up two-tenths of a percentage point in September to reach 6.1%. (See Table 4.) In August Alaska's unemployment rate actually equaled the nation's, the best performance all year. September's unemployment rate pushed Alaska back above the national rate of 5.6%. Even at 6.1% Alaska's unemployment rate remains relatively low compared to previous years. This year the state's seasonal industries helped keep unemployment rates low.

Strong year for state's seasonal industries

Each year from May through September Alaska's work force gets a big shot in the arm as seasonal industries kick into high gear. Nearly 20-25,000 additional jobs exist in the economy during this period compared to the annual average. Many Alaskans earn all or most of their income during this time. And this year these industries did not fail them. Fishing, tourism, and construction all racked up a strong season in 1994.

According to the Alaska Tourism Marketing Council 1.1 million visitors came to Alaska

during the first nine months of 1994. This will mark the second year the number of visitors crested the one million mark. It represents 5% growth and the seventh straight year of increases. Cheap air and cruise ship fares, promotional efforts, low gasoline prices, and the aging of America explain much of this growth. These positive visitor numbers in turn added spunk to the service, transportation and retail employment industries. How much of these industries' increases comes from tourism is not clear. All three of them are registering over-the-year employment gains. The service industry got a big boost in August when the Prince Hotel opened in Girdwood. By October their work force swelled to 500 compared to 100 in October of 1993.

This year Alaska's fishers hauled in the second largest salmon harvest in history. Although below average prices were paid, they did move up high enough to make the harvest worth more than last year when the largest catch in the state's history was taken. Ultimately this boost in income is good news for employment.

Construction employment remains ahead of last year in spite of less retail and residential activity. A combination of federal and state funded projects is keeping construction employment ahead of the strong 1993 season. Hospital, school, military and highway construction projects are giving the industry a big boost. The effects of the state's big capital budget passed in 1993 (the largest since 1985) were evident this construction season. The rate of construction employment growth has cooled in recent months. This could mean sustained forward momentum into next year looks less likely. But surprises do happen and some sizeable construction projects are already taking shape. The Air Force recently awarded a \$125 million contract for a new hospital on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage; the \$242 million Healy Coal Power Project got the green light; and construction work will begin on the new Ft. Knox mine near Fairbanks.

Varied employment picture around the state

Although Alaska's economy is continuing to generate more jobs, the growth is "uneven around the state. (See Figure 1.) As of September, half of the state's regions are job gainers and the other half are job losers. Anchorage's gains are the largest and Fairbanks' are the smallest. Most of Anchorage's growth is coming from the retail and service sectors along with a mild boost from construction. Fairbanks' small gains are coming from mining and services. The Gulf Coast region's pretty respectable gains are due to a strong pink salmon harvest in Prince William Sound and a busy construction scene on the Kenai Peninsula. The Northern region's losses are oil industry related. Southwest's weak numbers are due to the closure of the red and brown king crab fisheries in the Bering Sea. Southeast Alaska's weak showing is because of the timber losses and weak public sector numbers.

wage work force. So is it happening? The answer is yes, but it is not a recent phenomenon—it has been underway for a long time. (See Figure 2.) The primary reason for this trend is due to the notable change in the industry employment mix which has taken place over the last decade or more. (See Table 5.) For example the retail and service industries, both lower wage employers, accounted for 31.6% of all wage and salary employment in 1980 versus 39.2% in 1994. Conversely most of the state's share of total employment in higher-paying industries (such as construction, timber, and the public sectors) is shrinking. This does not mean new jobs in higher wage industries weren't being created. They simply grew more slowly than most of the lower paying industries. Given the present growth in retail and services, the losses in the oil industry, and the stagnation in the public sector, this trend could very well accelerate.

Fallout from retail trade war?

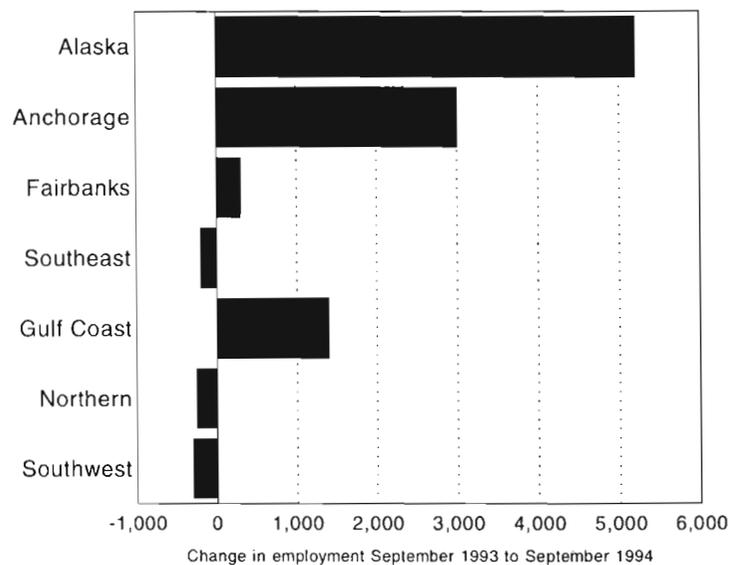
There are strong signs the shakeout is beginning to take place—not unexpected, given the rambunctiousness of this industry. The highest profile losses thus far are showing up in Anchorage. They came with the recent announcement that one of the Longs Drug stores will close its doors along with the McKays Hardware Store. A number of smaller specialty shops around the state have also closed up shop. At the same time this is happening new stores will be opening as well. A new Alaska Commercial store in Nome and a new Carrs store in Juneau are slated to open in early 1995. And there are rumors that other national retailers are eyeing the Alaska market. Retail remains the job growth leader in the state. In September there were 2,400 more retail jobs than there were a year ago, which represents 41% of all jobs generated in the state.

Fewer good jobs in Alaska's economy?

Because of the recent burst in retail growth and losses in the oil industry there is a fear that Alaska's economy is creating a lower

Figure • 1

A Mixed Employment Picture Around the State



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

T a b l e • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska

	p/	r/	Changes from		
	9/94	8/94	9/93	8/94	9/93
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	269,700	275,600	264,500	-5,900	5,200
Goods-producing	44,200	49,300	43,600	-5,100	600
Mining	9,900	10,300	10,500	-400	-600
Construction	15,700	16,200	14,700	-500	1,000
Manufacturing	18,600	22,800	18,400	-4,200	200
Durable Goods	3,400	3,600	3,700	-200	-300
Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,600	2,900	-100	-400
Nondurable Goods	15,200	19,200	14,700	-4,000	500
Seafood Processing	11,900	15,900	11,100	-4,000	800
Pulp Mills	500	500	900	0	-400
Service-producing	225,500	226,300	220,900	-800	4,600
Transportation	24,700	25,100	24,500	-400	200
Trucking & Warehousing	3,100	3,200	3,000	-100	100
Water Transportation	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Air Transportation	8,100	8,400	7,900	-300	200
Communications	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	0
Trade	53,900	54,900	51,300	-1,000	2,600
Wholesale Trade	8,500	8,800	8,300	-300	200
Retail Trade	45,400	46,100	43,000	-700	2,400
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,400	9,400	7,600	0	1,800
Food Stores	7,500	7,500	7,300	0	200
Eating & Drinking Places	15,100	15,500	14,900	-400	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,600	11,800	11,400	-200	200
Services & Misc.	60,600	62,500	58,900	-1,900	1,700
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,800	7,500	6,500	-700	300
Health Services	12,500	12,500	12,200	0	300
Government	74,700	72,000	74,800	2,700	-100
Federal	20,100	20,300	20,400	-200	-300
State	22,100	20,800	22,100	1,300	0
Local	32,500	30,900	32,300	1,600	200

Municipality of Anchorage

	p/	r/	Changes from		
	9/94	8/94	9/93	8/94	9/93
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	123,900	124,500	120,900	-600	3,000
Goods-producing	13,500	13,900	13,100	-400	400
Mining	3,000	3,100	3,200	-100	-200
Construction	8,300	8,400	7,800	-100	500
Manufacturing	2,200	2,400	2,100	-200	100
Service-producing	110,400	110,600	107,800	-200	2,600
Transportation	13,100	13,200	13,100	-100	0
Air Transportation	5,000	5,100	4,800	-100	200
Communications	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Trade	28,500	28,700	26,600	-200	1,900
Wholesale Trade	6,000	6,200	5,900	-200	100
Retail Trade	22,500	22,500	20,700	0	1,800
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,900	4,800	3,500	100	1,400
Food Stores	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	7,400	7,500	7,300	-100	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,000	7,100	6,900	-100	100
Services & Misc.	32,600	33,000	31,800	-400	800
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,700	2,800	2,500	-100	200
Health Services	6,300	6,300	6,200	0	100
Government	29,200	28,600	29,400	600	-200
Federal	11,800	11,800	11,900	0	-100
State	8,300	7,700	8,400	600	-100
Local	9,100	9,100	9,100	0	0

T a b l e • 2

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/	r/	9/93	p/	r/	9/93	p/	r/	9/93
	9/94	8/94		9/94	8/94		9/94	8/94	
Mining	\$1,168.36	\$1,206.27	\$1,275.97	48.5	49.6	51.1	\$24.09	\$24.32	\$24.97
Construction	1,198.97	1,185.63	1,130.54	47.0	46.9	44.3	25.51	25.28	25.52
Manufacturing	554.84	574.39	537.40	52.0	52.6	47.6	10.67	10.92	11.29
Seafood Processing	474.32	509.18	434.00	56.4	57.6	51.3	8.41	8.84	8.46
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	674.15	681.21	648.71	35.5	36.1	35.9	18.99	18.87	18.07
Trade	386.88	389.14	367.42	33.7	34.9	32.4	11.48	11.15	11.34
Wholesale	607.13	606.34	595.03	37.5	38.4	37.9	16.19	15.79	15.70
Retail	345.84	348.16	324.99	33.0	34.2	31.4	10.48	10.18	10.35
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	443.75	440.18	443.00	35.5	35.7	34.8	12.50	12.33	12.73

Notes to Tables 1-3:

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 Alaska Employment Service.

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- 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 1993

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Southeast Region	p/		Changes from		
	9/94	8/94	9/93	8/94	9/93
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	38,400	39,250	38,450	-850	-50
Goods-producing	7,750	8,650	8,200	-900	-450
Mining	200	200	100	0	100
Construction	1,800	1,900	1,900	-100	-100
Manufacturing	5,750	6,550	6,200	-800	-450
Durable Goods	2,000	2,100	2,250	-100	-250
Lumber & Woods Products	1,900	2,000	2,200	-100	-300
Nondurable Goods	3,750	4,450	3,950	-700	-200
Seafood Processing	3,000	3,700	2,900	-700	100
Pulp Mills	550	550	850	0	-300
Service-producing	30,650	30,600	30,250	50	400
Transportation	3,300	3,350	3,250	-50	50
Trade	6,900	7,200	6,500	-300	400
Wholesale Trade	550	600	600	-50	-50
Retail Trade	6,350	6,600	5,900	-250	450
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,350	0	50
Services & Misc.	6,600	6,750	6,450	-150	150
Government	12,450	11,900	12,700	550	-250
Federal	2,050	2,100	2,150	-50	-100
State	5,450	5,350	5,500	100	-50
Local	4,950	4,450	5,050	500	-100

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	133,250	134,250	130,000	-1,000	3,250
Goods-producing	14,500	14,950	14,050	-450	450
Mining	3,150	3,250	3,400	-100	-250
Construction	9,050	9,200	8,400	-150	650
Manufacturing	2,300	2,500	2,250	-200	50
Service-producing	118,750	119,300	115,950	-550	2,800
Transportation	13,800	13,950	13,900	-150	-100
Trade	31,000	31,200	28,900	-200	2,100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,300	7,400	7,250	-100	50
Services & Misc.	34,600	35,250	33,750	-650	850
Government	32,050	31,500	32,150	550	-100
Federal	11,850	11,900	12,000	-50	-150
State	9,200	8,500	9,250	700	-50
Local	11,000	11,100	10,900	-100	100

Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,300	30,950	26,900	-2,650	1,400
Goods-producing	8,050	10,350	7,000	-2,300	1,050
Mining	1,200	1,200	1,300	0	-100
Construction	1,800	1,750	1,400	50	400
Manufacturing	5,050	7,400	4,300	-2,350	750
Seafood Processing	3,700	6,100	2,950	-2,400	750
Service-producing	20,250	20,600	19,900	-350	350
Transportation	2,300	2,350	2,200	-50	100
Trade	5,100	5,500	5,050	-400	50
Wholesale Trade	600	700	600	-100	0
Retail Trade	4,500	4,800	4,450	-300	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	650	650	0	0
Services & Misc.	5,750	6,250	5,700	-500	50
Government	6,450	5,850	6,300	600	150
Federal	700	750	650	-50	50
State	1,850	1,700	1,900	150	-50
Local	3,900	3,400	3,750	500	150

Interior Region	p/		Changes from:		
	9/94	8/94	9/93	8/94	9/93
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	37,750	37,800	37,150	-50	600
Goods-producing	3,650	3,850	3,650	-200	0
Mining	1,000	1,100	900	-100	100
Construction	2,000	2,050	2,100	-50	-100
Manufacturing	650	700	650	-50	0
Service-producing	34,100	33,950	33,500	150	600
Transportation	3,000	3,250	2,950	-250	50
Trade	8,200	8,200	8,150	0	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Services & Misc.	8,200	8,700	8,000	-500	200
Government	13,500	12,600	13,200	900	300
Federal	4,250	4,350	4,200	-100	50
State	4,900	4,400	4,600	500	300
Local	4,350	3,850	4,400	500	-50

Fairbanks North Star Borough

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,350	32,250	32,050	100	300
Goods-producing	3,400	3,550	3,350	-150	50
Mining	900	950	750	-50	150
Construction	1,900	1,950	2,000	-50	-100
Manufacturing	600	650	600	-50	0
Service-producing	28,950	28,700	28,700	250	250
Transportation	2,400	2,400	2,350	0	50
Trucking & Warehousing	450	550	450	-100	0
Air Transportation	650	600	600	50	50
Communications	250	250	300	0	-50
Trade	7,550	7,500	7,500	50	50
Wholesale Trade	850	850	850	0	0
Retail Trade	6,700	6,650	6,650	50	50
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,300	1,150	1,200	150	100
Food Stores	750	750	750	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,850	2,900	2,850	-50	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,150	1,150	1,150	0	0
Services & Misc.	7,200	7,600	7,000	-400	200
Government	10,650	10,050	10,700	600	-50
Federal	3,400	3,500	3,450	-100	-50
State	4,400	3,900	4,350	500	50
Local	2,850	2,650	2,900	200	-50

Southwest Region

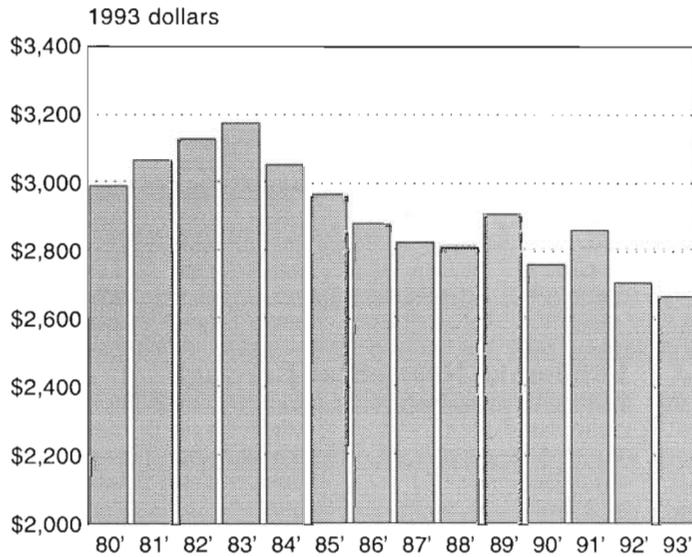
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,250	18,000	17,550	-750	-300
Goods-producing	5,150	6,050	5,450	-900	-300
Seafood Processing	4,700	5,500	4,850	-800	-150
Service-producing	12,100	11,950	12,100	150	0
Government	6,000	5,650	6,100	350	-100
Federal	1,050	1,100	1,150	-50	-100
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	4,450	4,050	4,450	400	0

Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,600	15,050	14,850	-450	-250
Goods-producing	5,100	5,300	5,300	-200	-200
Mining	4,300	4,500	4,800	-200	-500
Service-producing	9,500	9,750	9,550	-250	-50
Government	4,400	4,500	4,450	-100	-50
Federal	200	250	250	-50	-50
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	3,850	3,900	3,850	-50	0

Figure • 2

Alaska's Average Monthly Wage Falls After Adjusting for Inflation



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

Table • 5

Are There Fewer Good Jobs in Alaska's Economy Today?

	Percent Distribution of Alaska's Jobs			Average Monthly Wage
	1980	1984	*1994	**1993
Higher-Paying Industries				
Mining (nonoil)	0.3	0.3	0.4	\$4,876
Oil and Gas	3.6	3.6	3.4	6,366
Construction	6.2	9.0	4.8	3,664
Timber	2.1	1.2	1.0	3,653
Other Manufacturing***	1.7	1.2	1.3	2,962
Transportation	10.1	8.5	9.0	3,176
Wholesale Trade	3.2	3.9	3.2	2,833
Government	32.1	29.5	28.8	3,063
Total	59.3	57.2	51.9	
Lower Paying Industries				
Seafood Processing	4.4	2.4	4.5	\$1,976
Retail Trade	13.9	15.9	16.5	1,448
FIRE	4.7	5.4	4.4	2,521
Services	17.7	19.1	22.7	2,039
Total	40.7	42.8	48.1	

* First nine months of 1994.

** Latest annual data available.

*** This includes all other manufacturing minus timber and seafood processing.

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

Table • 4

Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

	Percent Unemployed	
	p/ 9/94	r/ 8/94
Not Seasonally Adjusted		
United States	5.6	5.9
Alaska Statewide	6.1	5.9
Anch.-MatSu Region	5.5	5.5
Municipality of Anchorage	4.9	4.8
MatSu Borough	9.3	9.4
Gulf Coast Region	8.4	7.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	8.2	8.1
Kodiak Island Borough	10.9	5.5
Valdez-Cordova	5.9	6.1
Interior Region	6.4	6.5
Denali Borough	2.6	3.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.0	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks	9.7	7.9
Yukon-Koyukuk	11.1	12.6
Northern Region	9.3	9.4
Nome	10.0	11.2
North Slope Borough	4.7	4.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	14.8	14.1
Southeast Region	5.6	5.2
Haines Borough	9.3	6.0
Juneau Borough	5.1	4.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	4.9	4.9
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch	9.3	7.4
Sitka Borough	7.1	6.8
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	4.3	5.2
Wrangell-Petersburg	4.6	4.1
Southwest Region	5.4	5.7
Aleutians East Borough	1.4	1.7
Aleutians West	1.4	1.5
Bethel	8.3	8.0
Bristol Bay Borough	2.0	1.9
Dillingham	5.5	5.7
Lake & Peninsula Borough	5.3	6.5
Wade Hampton	11.1	13.8
Seasonally Adjusted Rates		
Alaska Statewide	7.4	7.7
United States	5.9	6.1

p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates
Benchmark: March 1993

- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

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

Alaska Employment Service

Anchorage: Phone 269-4800

Kotzebue: Phone 442-3280

Kodiak: Phone 486-3105

Bethel: Phone 543-2210

Nome: Phone 443-2626/2460

Seward: Phone 224-5276

Dillingham: Phone 842-5579

Tok: Phone 883-5629

Juneau: Phone 790-4562

Eagle River: Phone 694-6904/07

Valdez: Phone 835-4910

Petersburg: Phone 772-3791

Mat-Su: Phone 376-2407/08

Kenai: Phone 283-4304/4377/4319

Sitka: Phone 747-3347/3423/6921

Fairbanks: Phone 451-2871

Homer: Phone 235-7791

Ketchikan: Phone 225-3181/82/83

Glennallen: Phone 822-3350



Alaska Economic Regions

The mission of the Alaska Employment Service is to promote employment and economic stability by responding to the needs of employers and job seekers.