

ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS



AN ANALYSIS OF EMPLOYERS BY FIRM SIZE

OCTOBER
1996

A TRENDS PROFILE—
BETHEL CENSUS AREA

SLOW GROWTH CONTINUES IN JULY

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

Email *Trends* Authors at:
Brigitta_Windisch-Cole@labor.state.ak.us
John_Boucher@labor.state.ak.us
Neal_Fried@labor.state.ak.us

Subscriptions: Jo_Ruby@labor.state.ak.us

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Bethel Census Area

by Brigitta Windisch-Cole



Figure • 1

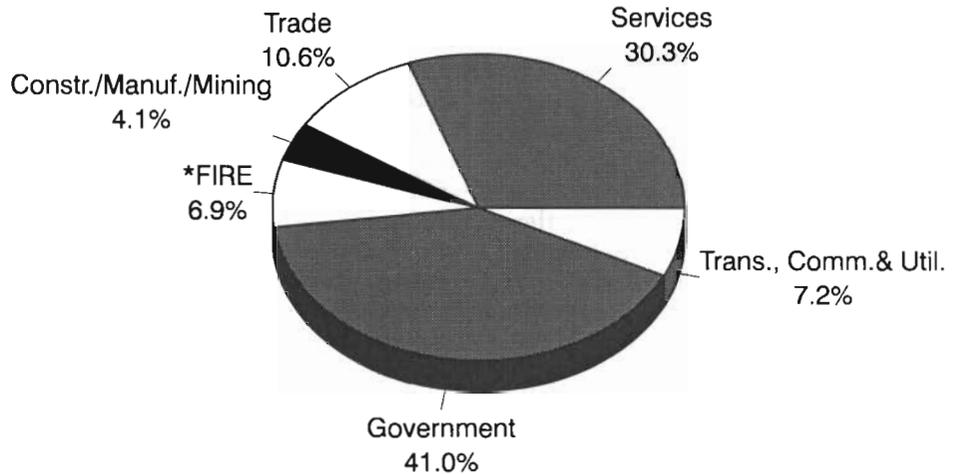
The Bethel census area, at 41,087 square miles, is Alaska's third largest region. Only the Yukon-Koyukuk census area and the North Slope Borough encompass more land. The Bethel census area, with 15,367 residents, is also the most populated of Alaska's remote areas. (See Table 3.) The city of Bethel is home to over one-third of the area's population, and the remaining residents live in 36 communities throughout the region.

Native Alaskans comprise the largest segment of the area's population. The first Russian fur trader, traveling up the Kuskokwim River in 1830, estimated a population of 4,000 Eskimos settled along the river banks. Just a few decades later, Moravian missionaries reported epidemics that caused numerous deaths among the indigenous population. In fact, from 1910 to 1919, the U.S. census recorded an average population of only 514 residents in this area. Since then, the Native population, mainly Yupik Eskimos, has grown steadily to its current size of 12,857, almost 84 percent of the area's residents. (See Table 3.)

Government important to early day economy

Owned first by Russian fur traders and later by pioneers, trading posts along the Kuskokwim introduced the local population to products from the outside world. While missionaries organized educational, social and health care services, the traders established a nearly cashless mercantile system. The federal government introduced cash payrolls at the beginning of the twentieth century when it sent civil servants to the area to establish mail, schools and health services.

The Public Sector is a Large Employer
Bethel Census Area 1995

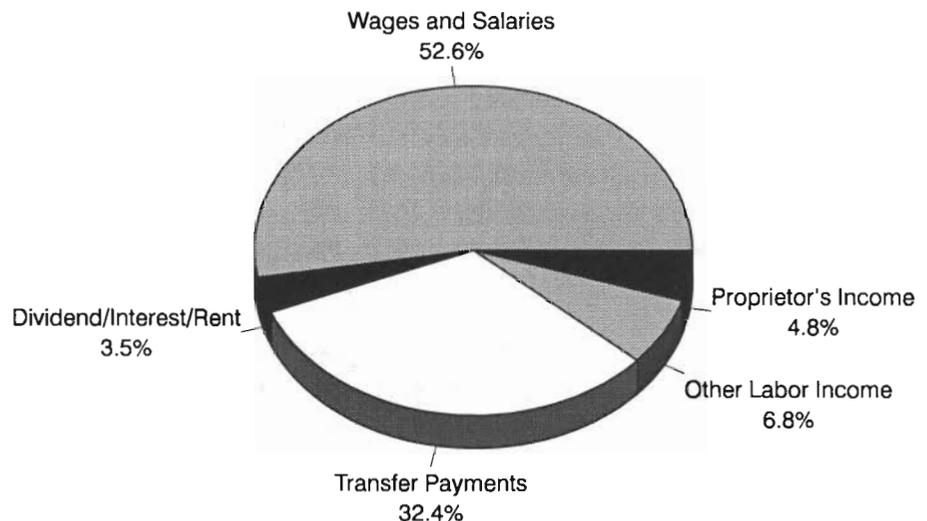


* Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 2

Sources of Personal Income in the
Bethel Census Area

1994 = \$ 230,432,000 (p)



(p) = preliminary.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Employment concentrated in Bethel City

Employment data suggest that over half of all wage and salary jobs in the region are in the city of Bethel. The city supports the 36 villages lying within the Bethel census area, as well as about 64 more settlements in adjacent census areas. Goods and services, for example, flow from Bethel into villages as far away as Scammon Bay or Pilot Station in the adjacent Wade Hampton census area, a northern neighbor.

Subsistence and cash economies mix

The area's economy has a distinct rural Alaska flavor. While most of the region's economic activity pulses in its center, the traditional lifestyle is best preserved in the villages. Village activities are determined mainly by subsistence, the pursuit of natural food supplies, and the public sector, which provides education,

basic health care and other essential services.

About 41 percent of all wage and salary earners in the region are on government payrolls. (See Figure 1.) School-related employment dominates. (See Table 2.) In the private sector, the delivery of goods and services sustains nearly all other private sector jobs. Health care, social service providers, and a housing agency, owned and managed by Alaska Native corporations, are among the largest employers. (See Table 2.) Transportation firms employ about seven percent of the regional workforce. (See Figure 1.) Most jobs in the trade sector, which employs almost 11 percent of the workforce, are located in the city of Bethel. As elsewhere in Alaska, goods-producing industries such as construction and manufacturing (mostly seafood processing) offer seasonal employment during the short summers. Combined, these two industries contribute about four percent to year-around employment.

Private Sector employment is gaining

During the past 10 years, total wage and salary employment grew over 33 percent in the region. While public sector employment peaked in 1990, it has retrenched to its 1985 level. (See Table 1.) While local government has added employment because of increasing school enrollment, staff reductions in the federal government have countered this trend. The private sector workforce has increased by 74%. Structural and organizational changes in the delivery of health care services accounted for most of this shift from public to private sector employment. In 1992, private sector employment surpassed public sector employment. (See Table 1.)

In the past, the federal government provided nearly all essential services. One example is health care. With the declaration of self-determination, the public mandate of health care transferred to the Yukon-Koyukuk Health Corporation, an Alaska-Na-

T a b l e • 1

Bethel Wage and Salary Employment 1985-1995

	1985	1986	1987 ¹	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total	3,958	3,862	3,911	4,175	4,214	4,467	4,375	4,561	4,840	5,051	5,283
Private Sector Employment	1,793	1,761	1,746	1,871	1,918	2,102	2,026	2,344	2,655	2,919	3,121
Mining	*	*	*	16	4	0	5	10	16	7	8
Construction	135	77	14	31	41	50	44	78	104	105	61
Manufacturing	82	138	138	129	112	87	50	125	200	145	146
Trans., Comm., & Util.	218	191	223	231	281	427	269	270	294	286	379
Trade	388	411	403	391	390	420	386	426	491	538	558
Wholesale	9	*	22	28	28	28	19	22	21	29	27
Retail	379	401	381	364	361	392	368	403	470	510	531
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	167	195	180	191	206	240	263	280	301	376	364
Services	740	713	744	877	883	876	1,001	1,142	1,240	1,459	1,600
Miscellaneous	*	*	*	5	0	3	7	11	3	2	1
Government	2,165	2,101	2,165	2,304	2,296	2,365	2,349	2,217	2,185	2,132	2,162
Federal	349	291	300	290	285	288	295	211	179	157	132
State	266	266	252	277	304	321	356	336	328	315	318
Local	1,551	1,544	1,614	1,736	1,708	1,756	1,699	1,670	1,677	1,660	1,712

* Nondisclosed.

¹ Manufacturing employment: 1987-1995 adjusted for misreported overcount in seafood processing industry. These figures differ from those published in the Employment & Earnings Summary Reports.

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

tive-owned nonprofit corporation. It is the largest private employer in the region and the 24th statewide. When the change in stewardship became effective, job growth shifted to the private sector. Since 1992, compacting, an administrative reorganization program, at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage has shifted health care jobs from Anchorage to Bethel.

The Kuskokwim River is an important lifeline

About 76 percent of the area's population lives along the Kuskokwim River, the ancestral travel route - a frozen highway during the winter months and a water passage during warmer seasons. Erosion of the river banks has long threatened adjacent settlements. This year, a seawall reconstruction project in Bethel, costing \$22.6 million, was begun.

During the summer, about 10 ocean-going barges carrying building materials, bulk food and other supplies dock in Bethel. In addition, six mainline fuel barges, loaded with 12 million gallons of fuel, call on Bethel's port. A fleet of lighterage barges distributes bulk freight, fuel and stove oil up river, reaching communities as far away as McGrath and Nikolai.

The Kuskokwim also provides food and income as a fishery. Traditional summer fish camps line the river banks as chum and silver salmon are harvested both for subsistence and commercial uses.

Over 800 residents used their area permits in the 1995 commercial salmon fishery, adding valuable cash to a subsistence economy where job opportunities are scarce. In recent years, however, salmon prices have plummeted, and the fishery, although plentiful, has left fishers disappointed with the value of their catch.

Busy skies over Bethel

The fastest links to the rest of Alaska's economy are the busy airways leading to and from Bethel. In 1995, the Bethel airport registered 121,400 landings and take offs. Small planes carrying passengers, air freight and mail to outlying communities contribute most of this heavy air traffic.

Living conditions improve

The 1990 U.S. census documented the lack of infrastructure in rural Alaska. At that time in the Bethel region, only 38% of all housing units had septic tanks or access to public sewage systems, compared to 88% of homes statewide.

Since 1990, federal and state grants have helped modernize infrastructure, upgrade houses, build new construction and manage public housing. In the past six years, for example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has contributed over \$83 million to modernize living conditions in the region. The agency just approved another grant for construction of 60 more units in three rural villages. Among various

federal and state agencies, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has also been a large contributor to public housing.

According to Alaska's Housing Market Indicators, since 1990, contractors had filed 362 new housing permits in the Bethel census area. The majority of residential building upgrades and new construction were for single-family homes in the city of Bethel.

The AVCP Housing Authority, an affiliate of the Association of Village Council Presidents, manages the majority of public housing grants. It oversees most residential construction and improvements, and currently acts as landlord of about 1,150 single-family and 50 multi-family units. The AVCP Housing Authority and the Association are among the region's top 10 employers. (See Table 2.)

Personal income remains low

While total personal income, a comprehensive measure of monetary resources, increased over 85 percent during the past 10 years, regional

T a b l e • 2

The Top Ten Employers in the Bethel Census Area

Rank	Name	Average Annual Employment
1	Lower Kuskokwim School District	881
2	Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	652
3	Omni Enterprises (formerly Swansons)	214
4	Association of Village Council Presidents	201
5	Yupit School district	130
6	Kuspuk School District	130
7	Alaska Dept. of Health & Social Services	92
8	AVCP Housing Authority	93
9	Yute Air Alaska	88
10	University of Alaska	65

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

per capita income still ranked second lowest in the state in 1994.

In 1990, the U.S. census found that 4,022 residents of the Bethel census area, or 30% of the population, lived on incomes below the poverty level. In the city of Bethel, however, poverty was recorded for 12.2% of the population. This reflects a lack of economic opportunity in the villages.

Income from wages and salaries contributes about 53 percent to the region's earnings. (See Figure 2.) This

compares to a statewide average of 64%. Rent and investment income added 3.5% to Bethel's earnings, lagging behind the state's average of 10.6%. Transfer payments, which are government payments to individuals, nonprofit organizations, and businesses, play a more important role in the regional economy. Over 32 percent of all income generated in the area comes from government sources, compared to about 17 percent statewide.

Included in transfer payments is the state's distribution of Alaska Per-

manent Fund earnings which, in Bethel, represented about 17 percent of the 1994 transfer payments. The bulk of transfer payments comes from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for health care and social services. However, individual income supplements, which are all forms of public assistance, are also an important portion of transfer payments. In 1989, over 22 percent of all households in the Bethel census area received public assistance.

Wage and salary earnings data further confirm government as an important industry because its employees earn 48% of the region's payroll. In 1995, the average annual wage and salary earnings for Bethel were about 25 percent below the statewide average. This does not mean that jobs pay less in Bethel than elsewhere; it shows that there are more jobs in lower paying industries, such as services and trade, and also that part-time and seasonal employment plays a larger role in the economy.

The most recent developments in the Bethel region

More services are on the way for Bethel residents, including an Internet connection linking local residents to the World Wide Web, cellular telephone service, and an extra airline flight to Anchorage.

Table • 3

A Snapshot of the Bethel Census Area Current Statistics and Census Information

	Alaska	Bethel
Population 1995	615,900	15,367
The population is younger with more persons per household		
Median age (1995)	30	25.4
Persons per household	2.79	3.65
... and there are more children and fewer seniors (1995)		
Percent under 5 years old	9.0%	13.1%
Percent school-age population (5 to 17)	21.6%	26.2%
Percent adult workforce population (18 to 64)	64.8%	55.9%
Percent Seniors (65 years & over)	4.6%	4.9%
and there are a few more women		
Percent Female	48.0%	48.1%
Demographics of the region (1995)		
Percent Native American	15.7%	83.7%
Percent White	75.7%	15.2%
Percent Black	4.4%	0.4%
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	4.2%	0.7%
Percent Hispanic	4.0%	0.6%
More workers are unemployed (1995)		
*Percent of all 16 years + in labor force	68.1%	54.0%
Percent unemployed	7.3%	8.6%
Income measured		
Personal per capita income (1994)	\$23,437	\$15,379
Wage and Salary employment (annual average 1995)	\$32,288	\$24,452
Educational Attainment (1990)		
Percent high school graduate or higher	86.6%	62.3%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	23.0%	13.1%

*based on 1995 population estimates

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section. U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

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

An Analysis of Employers by Firm Size

by John Boucher

In August, *Alaska Economic Trends* featured the largest 100 firms in Alaska. Now, in October, this article looks at *all* of the firms in Alaska's economy, attempting to gain insight into the other firms that help make up the state's economic landscape.

Nearly 15,000 firms, most employ less than 10

More than 14,700 employers were present in Alaska in 1995. (See Methodology box for definitions.) Compared to 1994, there were 419 more firms in 1995, an increase of 2.9% over the year. (See Table 1.) The services industry had the biggest increase in number of firms in 1995, followed by trade and construction. (See Figure 1.) On a percentage basis, services and construction added firms at the fastest pace. This is not too surprising, since these two industries were the fastest growing in terms of employment in 1995.

The vast majority of Alaska's firms employ 10 people or less. Of the 14,747 firms, nearly 60 percent employed less than four people in 1995, and about 78 percent, or more than 11,000 firms, employed less than 10 during the year. (See Figure 2.) On the other hand, when it comes to total employment, Alaska's biggest firms have a large economic impact. The largest two percent of all firms, firms that employed 100 or more, accounted for nearly 45 percent of the total employment in 1995. (See Figure 3.) These same firms also pay a disproportionate share of total wages. In 1995, firms that employed 100 or more accounted for over half of all of the wages paid in Alaska. (See Figure 4.) Generally speaking, the larger a firm gets, the more likely it is to pay a higher average wage. (See Figure 5.)

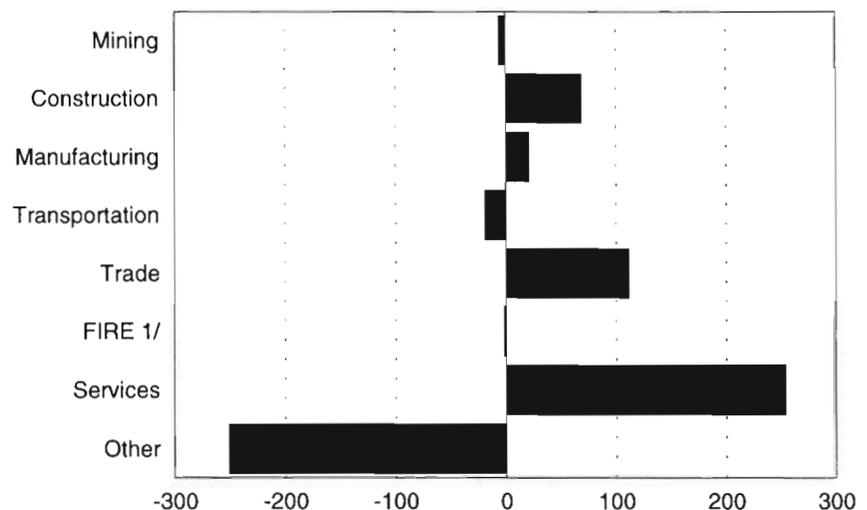
Firm size varies by industry

While small firms were the largest category of employers across all industries, some industries tend to have more large firms than other industries. Mining, manufacturing and transportation had more large firms, while construction and services had more small firms. (See Figure 6.) This is largely due to the types of establishments that are key players in the industry. For example, oil companies, oil and gas field service companies, and mines tend to need larger work forces to function. This can also be said of Alaska's manufacturing industry where seafood processors, timber cutters and manufacturers are key employers. In services and construction, a large work force isn't as necessary to becoming a functional business operation.

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

Figure • 1

Services Added the Most New Firms in 1995 Change in the Number of Firms by Industry, 1994-95



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

T a b l e • 1

Private Industry Employers and Employment by Size—1994 and 1995

Industry/Size Class	Avg. # of Firms	1994										
		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Mining												
0-4	91	87	102	105	114	118	119	167	159	133	238	175
5-9	17	72	65	75	256	182	159	182	167	160	74	79
10-19	19	271	200	191	186	209	232	307	314	312	367	341
20-49	16	614	563	570	534	597	593	440	455	452	387	413
50-99	7	361	432	444	549	516	530	484	479	473	469	451
100-249	14	1,940	1,935	1,955	2,075	2,102	2,094	1,949	2,047	1,952	1,937	1,942
250-499	3	1,619	1,831	1,661	846	761	803	1,151	1,029	1,025	1,414	1,173
500+	5	5,288	4,918	4,930	5,411	5,512	5,577	5,574	5,836	5,916	5,539	5,523
Total	171	10,252	10,046	9,931	9,971	9,997	10,107	10,254	10,486	10,423	10,425	10,097
Construction												
0-4	1,185	1,730	1,505	1,442	1,487	1,624	1,658	2,153	2,022	1,689	3,186	2,427
5-9	283	1,387	1,410	1,436	1,539	1,856	2,168	2,041	2,111	2,074	2,364	1,978
10-19	181	1,993	2,035	2,112	1,974	2,301	2,683	2,772	2,922	2,900	2,317	2,087
20-49	105	2,136	2,276	2,333	2,722	3,149	3,630	3,527	3,715	3,706	3,023	2,767
50-99	25	932	988	1,130	1,217	1,399	1,691	2,069	2,345	2,343	1,806	1,545
100+	11	1,254	1,656	1,945	2,035	2,045	2,145	2,869	2,960	2,996	1,810	1,919
Total	1,790	9,432	9,870	10,398	10,974	12,374	13,975	15,431	16,075	15,708	14,506	12,723
Manufacturing												
0-4	246	409	394	370	428	355	349	1,604	864	350	1,127	708
5-9	83	469	485	504	490	513	597	925	704	561	627	572
10-19	57	684	691	721	776	831	725	980	911	909	778	752
20-49	53	1,000	1,142	1,230	1,468	1,577	1,976	2,358	2,105	1,841	2,418	1,774
50-99	20	890	1,195	1,240	1,090	1,303	1,678	1,815	1,705	1,402	1,934	1,604
100-249	21	1,931	2,661	2,718	2,627	3,134	3,839	3,255	3,476	3,134	3,425	2,718
250-499	9	1,773	3,723	3,535	2,459	2,372	3,120	6,775	5,801	4,028	2,076	1,614
500+	8	4,578	6,560	6,794	5,406	5,041	7,884	8,320	8,217	6,993	2,955	2,733
Total	495	11,734	16,851	17,112	14,744	15,126	20,168	26,032	23,783	19,218	15,340	12,475
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities												
0-4	567	951	958	837	862	887	866	1,294	1,228	957	1,255	1,104
5-9	203	1,225	1,221	1,263	1,293	1,384	1,442	1,385	1,436	1,360	1,268	1,249
10-19	128	1,518	1,525	1,602	1,612	1,798	2,033	1,877	1,901	1,877	1,535	1,517
20-49	102	3,032	2,874	2,957	2,626	2,730	2,973	3,398	3,340	3,335	3,408	3,000
50-99	45	2,218	2,438	2,454	3,266	3,468	3,533	3,260	3,329	3,134	3,363	3,233
100-249	29	4,056	4,122	4,326	4,395	4,706	4,970	4,840	4,842	4,990	3,813	3,687
250-499	12	3,116	3,150	3,202	3,208	3,520	4,074	4,042	3,971	4,342	3,697	3,710
500+	6	5,018	5,085	5,055	5,120	5,108	5,283	5,316	5,338	5,365	5,182	5,113
Total	1,090	21,134	21,373	21,696	22,382	23,601	25,174	25,412	25,385	25,360	23,521	22,613
Trade												
0-4	2,106	3,877	3,743	3,579	3,644	3,657	3,707	5,019	4,696	3,823	4,255	3,908
5-9	869	5,086	5,060	5,157	5,065	5,555	6,061	6,145	6,154	6,053	5,572	5,491
10-19	537	6,450	6,596	6,744	6,405	6,966	7,507	7,331	7,507	7,282	6,916	6,950
20-49	276	6,964	7,016	7,172	8,151	8,722	9,056	8,894	9,005	8,821	7,749	7,802
50-99	85	6,043	5,999	6,084	5,664	5,839	6,110	5,529	5,554	5,641	5,485	5,638
100-249	47	5,704	5,733	5,775	6,343	6,696	6,961	6,227	6,554	6,582	6,398	6,344
250-499	13	4,339	4,170	4,147	3,920	3,953	4,422	4,690	4,660	4,664	5,217	5,241
500+	11	9,528	9,693	10,434	11,498	11,991	12,026	12,811	12,974	12,972	10,998	11,366
Total	3,944	47,991	48,010	49,092	50,690	53,379	55,850	56,646	57,104	55,838	52,590	52,740
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate												
0-4	509	985	990	947	918	918	892	949	947	925	1,026	986
5-9	156	1,030	1,032	1,026	1,007	1,043	1,088	1,051	1,063	1,046	952	940
10-19	94	1,343	1,302	1,331	1,124	1,162	1,248	1,302	1,282	1,273	1,274	1,264
20-49	62	1,606	1,671	1,736	1,956	2,027	2,144	1,843	1,893	1,899	2,114	2,043
50-99	24	1,438	1,481	1,551	1,625	1,699	1,751	1,815	1,835	1,841	1,432	1,428
100-249	7	742	746	758	806	823	884	1,018	1,083	1,117	928	945
250+	4	3,058	3,125	3,166	3,221	3,217	3,252	3,268	3,247	3,174	3,136	3,158
Total	856	10,202	10,347	10,515	10,657	10,889	11,259	11,246	11,350	11,275	10,862	10,764

Methodology

Employment data were extracted from the Alaska Department of Labor's *Quarterly Employment and Earnings Reports* database. Firms subject to unemployment insurance laws must file a quarterly report showing their total payroll by quarter and their employment during the pay period that includes the 12th of each month in the quarter. Excluded from this employment database are the self-employed, unpaid family help, domestics, and most persons engaged in agriculture (including seafood harvesters).

This analysis considered each unemployment insurance (UI) account number as a separate firm. Firms operating with multiple UI account numbers were counted one time for each operative UI account number. Firms with multiple worksites, but operating under a single UI account, were counted once.

A firm was placed in a firm size category for the quarter based upon the firm's employment level in the third month of the quarter. Annual average number of firms in a size class is the four quarterly observations divided by four.

Average monthly wage equals the total annual payroll divided by the 12 monthly employment observations.

Dec.	Ann. Avg. Emp.	Yearly Earnings	Ann. Avg. Mo. Earn
97	135	\$6,120,780	\$3,792
64	128	5,944,702	3,873
293	269	14,643,018	4,543
395	501	30,541,468	5,079
475	472	28,363,211	5,009
1,911	1,987	130,895,842	5,491
1,068	1,198	79,053,628	5,497
5,592	5,468	471,897,496	7,192
9,895	10,157	767,460,145	6,297
1,607	1,878	52,919,704	2,349
1,756	1,843	60,048,911	2,715
2,030	2,344	90,081,517	3,203
2,615	2,967	139,315,370	3,913
1,373	1,570	86,523,917	4,593
1,650	2,038	155,349,753	6,144
11,031	12,708	584,239,172	3,831
413	614	16,523,354	2,242
488	578	14,833,069	2,139
734	791	24,701,354	2,602
1,504	1,699	52,294,288	2,564
1,020	1,406	41,889,748	2,482
2,347	2,939	98,468,619	2,792
1,205	3,207	83,361,518	2,166
2,567	5,671	177,054,989	2,602
10,278	16,905	509,126,939	2,510
889	1,007	25,192,654	2,084
1,271	1,316	33,556,948	2,124
1,530	1,694	47,488,743	2,336
3,098	3,064	104,648,322	2,846
3,184	3,073	109,553,538	2,971
3,882	4,386	181,044,511	3,440
3,756	3,649	140,235,351	3,203
5,172	5,180	277,982,535	4,472
22,782	23,369	919,702,602	3,280
3,635	3,962	69,012,889	1,452
5,626	5,585	96,148,476	1,435
7,179	6,986	130,116,873	1,552
7,860	8,101	164,963,338	1,697
5,740	5,777	133,122,335	1,920
6,343	6,305	141,817,644	1,874
5,245	4,556	97,661,677	1,786
11,327	11,468	229,377,330	1,667
52,955	52,740	1,062,220,562	1,678
976	955	21,676,852	1,892
945	1,019	25,382,696	2,077
1,242	1,262	35,234,631	2,326
2,011	1,912	65,518,136	2,856
1,496	1,616	59,918,232	3,090
887	895	30,763,667	2,865
3,152	3,181	87,756,946	2,299
10,709	10,840	326,251,160	2,508

Table • 1 (cont.)

Private Industry Employers and Employment by Size—1994 and 1995

Industry/Size Class	Avg. # of Firms	1994											
		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
Services													
0-4	3,434	5,768	5,733	5,572	6,216	6,126	5,745	7,256	6,927	6,059	6,679	6,295	
5-9	1,063	6,496	6,748	6,716	6,756	7,001	7,349	7,135	7,264	7,051	6,843	6,828	
10-19	610	7,147	7,405	7,455	7,634	8,130	8,639	8,102	8,219	8,247	7,918	7,950	
20-49	310	8,217	8,353	8,574	8,396	9,011	9,785	10,199	10,377	10,093	8,880	8,852	
50-99	84	4,972	5,168	5,354	5,149	5,451	5,944	5,581	5,653	5,639	4,973	4,952	
100-249	55	7,149	7,365	7,527	7,606	7,867	8,018	7,804	8,193	8,308	7,952	7,923	
250-499	20	5,787	5,781	5,871	6,776	6,930	7,238	6,902	7,038	7,370	6,556	6,547	
500+	8	6,963	6,952	6,981	6,466	6,504	6,936	7,235	7,048	6,887	6,975	7,110	
Total	5,583	52,499	53,505	54,050	54,999	57,020	59,654	60,214	60,719	59,654	56,776	56,457	
Other													
0-4	403	1,053	1,155	1,144	1,344	1,772	1,885	2,179	2,187	1,863	1,632	1,297	
5-9	166	360	347	362	348	468	491	482	490	466	342	327	
10-19	48	331	339	368	392	499	570	528	550	574	442	411	
20-49	20	369	399	420	472	634	644	536	576	464	403	372	
50+	5	74	79	110	171	198	216	226	309	323	141	133	
Total	642	2,187	2,319	2,404	2,727	3,571	3,806	3,951	4,112	3,690	2,960	2,540	
Private Ownership													
0-4	8,426	14,103	13,734	13,150	13,948	14,063	13,724	18,968	17,364	14,347	18,223	15,951	
5-9	2,736	16,073	16,342	16,519	16,764	17,993	19,370	19,291	19,332	18,756	18,051	17,471	
10-19	1,658	19,712	20,055	20,482	20,018	21,837	23,548	23,211	23,641	23,350	21,487	21,216	
20-49	938	23,881	24,241	24,954	26,330	28,415	30,786	31,133	31,395	30,573	28,383	27,018	
50-99	291	16,906	17,758	18,318	18,679	19,813	21,382	20,727	21,132	20,714	19,536	18,915	
100-249	181	22,285	23,289	23,778	25,219	26,851	28,401	27,254	28,412	28,268	25,635	24,739	
250-499	58	16,988	19,010	18,765	17,562	17,872	19,998	24,153	23,153	22,065	19,294	18,640	
500-999	30	17,325	18,473	19,176	19,737	20,470	23,393	24,276	24,150	23,261	17,645	17,643	
1000+	11	17,245	18,434	19,061	17,700	17,089	17,734	18,467	18,725	18,323	17,434	17,744	
Total	14,328	164,518	171,336	174,203	175,957	184,403	198,336	207,480	207,304	199,657	185,688	179,337	

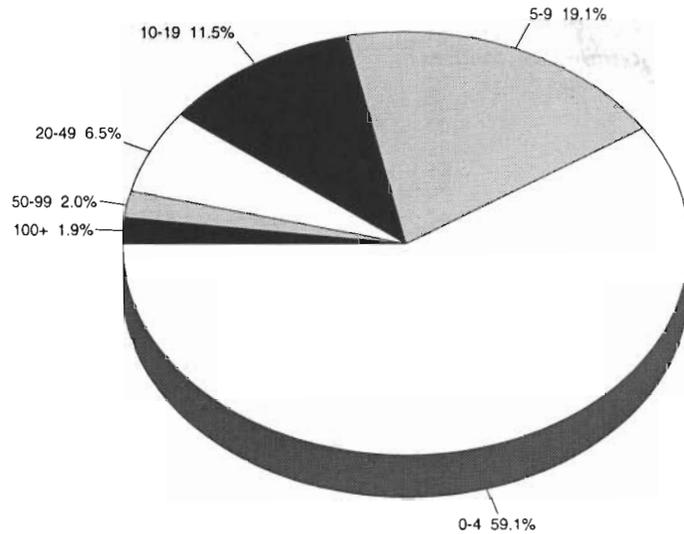
1995

Industry/Size Class	Avg. # of Firms	1995											
		Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	
Mining													
0-4	88	118	75	85	119	101	96	165	161	106	257	139	
5-9	16	101	105	104	81	109	132	127	138	129	109	95	
10-19	17	162	164	181	177	227	267	261	259	267	211	200	
20-49	15	484	491	498	402	396	439	592	575	564	428	433	
50-99	10	614	613	609	555	563	617	529	547	575	945	664	
100-249	11	1,244	1,384	1,411	2,126	2,082	2,124	1,639	1,611	1,692	1,675	1,666	
250-499	5	1,491	1,752	1,637	1,424	1,378	1,602	1,440	1,483	1,389	1,836	1,820	
500+	5	4,824	4,879	4,837	4,331	4,577	4,710	5,289	5,545	5,546	5,093	4,938	
Total	165	9,038	9,463	9,362	9,215	9,433	9,987	10,042	10,319	10,268	10,554	9,955	
Construction													
0-4	1,225	1,715	1,540	1,378	1,454	1,661	1,745	2,159	2,086	1,825	3,400	2,369	
5-9	306	1,692	1,726	1,789	1,466	1,829	2,141	2,106	2,254	2,202	2,812	2,204	
10-19	194	1,817	1,890	1,891	2,111	2,591	3,121	2,832	3,023	3,091	3,210	2,718	
20-49	98	1,936	2,068	2,062	2,161	2,627	3,148	3,632	3,962	3,867	2,870	2,625	
50-99	25	721	791	841	1,446	1,848	2,114	2,236	2,376	2,364	1,146	1,152	
100+	12	1,343	1,553	1,629	2,069	2,544	3,012	3,029	3,179	2,941	1,502	1,381	
Total	1,859	9,224	9,568	9,590	10,707	13,100	15,281	15,994	16,880	16,290	14,940	12,449	
Manufacturing													
0-4	261	824	594	367	353	369	370	2,088	1,219	411	1,154	627	
5-9	84	427	408	462	473	540	607	839	815	621	799	615	
10-19	62	683	761	835	705	756	877	1,249	1,044	940	846	814	
20-49	55	1,177	1,141	1,231	1,807	1,925	2,123	2,820	2,677	1,933	2,520	2,178	
50-99	18	745	1,016	1,094	1,046	1,171	1,465	2,118	1,847	1,434	1,150	917	
100-249	21	1,794	2,547	2,752	2,495	3,192	3,828	3,633	3,339	2,905	3,615	2,932	
250-499	7	1,830	3,090	3,081	2,977	3,345	3,637	4,488	3,554	2,427	1,901	1,827	
500+	8	4,666	6,957	6,731	5,654	5,189	6,941	10,119	10,192	8,871	3,083	2,726	
Total	516	12,146	16,514	16,553	15,510	16,487	19,848	27,354	24,687	19,542	15,068	12,636	

Figure • 2

**78% of Alaska's Firms Employ Less than 10 ...
Employers by Firm Size, 1995**

Dec.	Ann. Avg. Emp.	Yearly Earnings	Ann. Avg. Mo. Earn
5,816	6,183	\$131,040,957	\$1,766
6,892	6,923	148,753,268	1,791
7,999	7,904	175,779,346	1,853
8,815	9,129	217,891,623	1,989
5,068	5,325	147,114,899	2,302
7,914	7,802	198,285,138	2,118
6,532	6,611	178,736,834	2,253
7,389	6,954	178,213,015	2,136
56,425	56,831	1,375,815,080	2,017
1,201	1,559	40,034,893	2,140
328	401	7,671,783	1,595
404	451	10,777,764	1,993
401	474	15,008,801	2,638
164	179	4,084,477	1,905
2,498	3,064	77,577,718	2,110
13,722	15,108	330,573,844	1,823
17,383	17,779	392,185,769	1,838
21,355	21,659	528,304,834	2,033
26,732	27,820	789,137,207	2,364
18,411	19,358	609,459,828	2,624
24,326	25,705	880,100,299	2,853
18,176	19,640	594,318,349	2,522
17,711	20,272	688,965,889	2,832
17,726	17,974	775,441,493	3,595
175,542	185,313	5,588,487,512	2,513

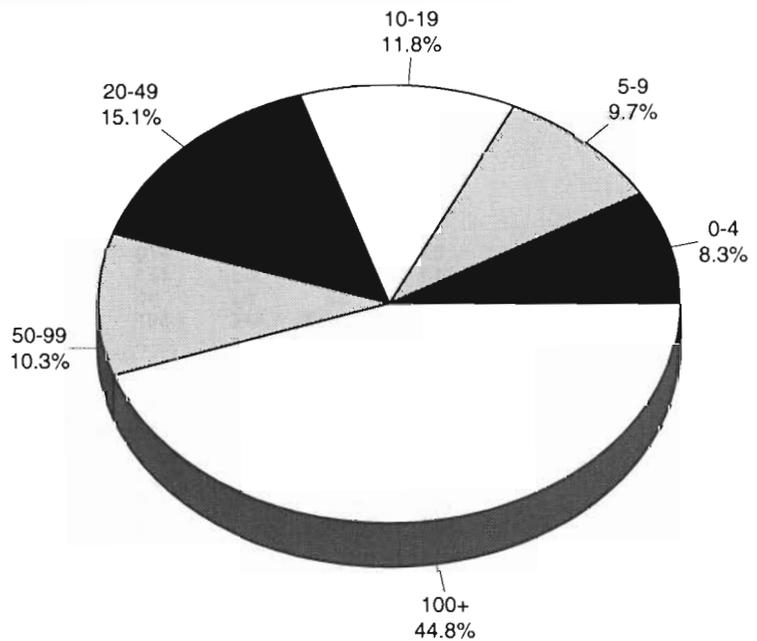


Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 3

**... But Large Firms Supplied 45% of the Jobs
Total Employment by Firm Size, 1995**

Dec.	Ann. Avg. Emp.	Yearly Earnings	Ann. Avg. Mo. Earn
99	127	\$6,396,955	\$4,206
88	110	4,727,303	3,587
179	213	9,763,678	3,821
443	479	31,164,392	5,425
605	620	39,808,211	5,353
1,540	1,683	106,685,251	5,283
1,829	1,590	100,755,932	5,280
4,933	4,959	451,966,823	7,596
9,716	9,779	751,268,545	6,402
1,694	1,919	54,647,244	2,373
1,951	2,014	70,656,225	2,923
2,506	2,567	101,324,523	3,290
2,461	2,785	128,799,391	3,854
1,047	1,507	82,512,391	4,563
1,108	2,108	145,265,062	5,744
10,767	12,899	583,204,836	3,768
449	735	19,916,775	2,257
527	594	14,480,049	2,030
747	855	27,586,664	2,690
1,543	1,923	61,991,986	2,687
774	1,231	35,731,727	2,418
2,494	2,961	99,861,924	2,811
1,646	2,817	74,288,865	2,198
2,803	6,161	196,873,951	2,663
10,983	17,277	530,731,941	2,560



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

Table • 1 (cont.)

Private Industry Employers and Employment by Size—1994 and 1995

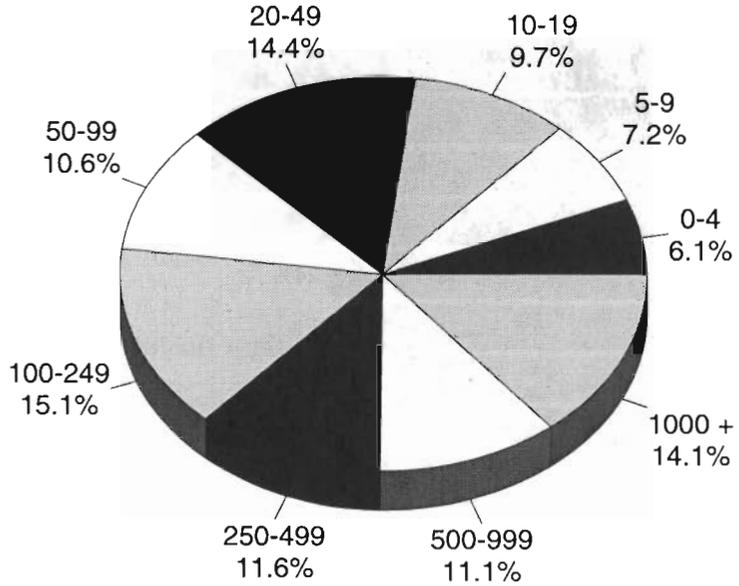
Industry/Size Class	Avg. # of Firms	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities												
0-4	560	968	861	839	903	909	893	1,087	1,055	939	1,439	1,266
5-9	196	1,095	1,128	1,167	1,177	1,232	1,288	1,410	1,423	1,402	1,453	1,333
10-19	120	1,401	1,410	1,428	1,463	1,660	1,873	1,864	1,807	1,739	1,522	1,422
20-49	105	3,084	3,088	3,226	3,516	3,092	3,241	3,317	3,344	3,192	3,151	3,004
50-99	45	2,674	2,677	2,712	2,950	3,174	3,188	3,532	3,453	3,309	3,208	2,888
100-249	29	3,994	4,276	4,333	4,198	4,699	5,018	4,194	4,376	4,276	3,580	3,610
250-499	12	3,366	3,367	3,412	3,728	3,797	4,000	4,769	4,805	4,876	3,435	3,353
500+	6	5,051	4,914	4,904	4,246	4,554	4,876	4,514	4,549	4,852	4,821	4,796
Total	1,071	21,633	21,721	22,021	22,181	23,117	24,377	24,687	24,812	24,585	22,609	21,672
Trade												
0-4	2,187	4,004	3,856	3,745	3,830	3,930	3,844	5,042	4,908	4,113	4,786	3,995
5-9	889	5,490	5,415	5,571	5,339	5,786	6,275	6,286	6,293	6,041	5,618	5,562
10-19	542	6,444	6,516	6,697	6,627	7,168	7,694	7,777	7,852	7,553	7,088	7,087
20-49	280	7,770	7,730	7,789	8,125	8,705	9,339	9,030	9,127	8,955	7,550	7,532
50-99	84	5,295	5,367	5,484	5,460	5,764	6,138	5,706	5,781	5,703	5,424	5,456
100-249	51	6,170	6,323	6,366	7,357	7,678	7,952	7,219	7,309	7,254	7,578	7,633
250-499	14	5,221	4,874	4,886	4,171	4,273	4,620	5,236	5,349	5,260	4,413	4,783
500+	10	9,974	9,747	9,904	10,714	11,344	12,148	12,206	12,051	11,886	11,194	11,223
Total	4,056	50,368	49,828	50,442	51,623	54,648	58,010	58,502	58,670	56,765	53,651	53,271
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate												
0-4	506	994	932	932	943	946	919	984	998	917	964	959
5-9	155	939	957	946	967	984	996	1,011	1,014	1,015	1,039	1,039
10-19	98	1,341	1,335	1,337	1,192	1,242	1,291	1,361	1,356	1,371	1,355	1,362
20-49	61	1,803	1,785	1,805	1,742	1,779	1,915	1,877	1,856	1,925	2,080	1,972
50-99	24	1,226	1,284	1,292	1,857	1,894	2,026	1,734	1,743	1,749	1,367	1,320
100-249	7	858	860	870	688	693	679	807	894	888	999	934
250+	4	3,065	3,071	3,064	3,056	3,056	3,096	3,099	3,131	3,105	2,990	2,972
Total	854	10,226	10,224	10,246	10,445	10,594	10,922	10,873	10,992	10,970	10,794	10,558
Services												
0-4	3,600	6,119	6,025	5,914	6,398	6,361	6,111	7,251	7,050	6,214	7,144	6,359
5-9	1,115	6,711	6,929	6,982	6,921	7,061	7,482	7,504	7,708	7,500	7,427	7,238
10-19	628	7,327	7,615	7,667	8,026	8,604	9,118	8,452	8,580	8,474	7,876	8,003
20-49	325	8,681	8,934	9,126	8,529	9,162	10,104	10,772	10,844	10,578	9,008	9,093
50-99	86	5,074	5,171	5,317	5,851	6,202	6,688	6,082	6,146	6,170	5,129	5,235
100-249	55	7,344	7,536	7,719	7,921	8,186	8,446	8,223	8,418	8,474	8,062	8,045
250-499	20	6,214	6,278	6,255	6,932	7,153	7,451	7,535	7,527	7,547	6,304	6,357
500+	8	7,317	7,282	7,287	7,131	7,333	7,728	7,451	7,309	7,019	7,995	8,016
Total	5,837	54,787	55,770	56,267	57,709	60,062	63,128	63,270	63,582	61,976	58,945	58,346
Other												
0-4	288	321	350	317	275	317	367	512	476	357	489	330
5-9	49	260	253	282	255	350	384	430	433	418	241	223
10-19	33	405	416	470	348	428	530	380	390	389	356	322
20-49	19	373	365	423	501	716	730	805	852	822	382	364
50+	2	50	62	69	151	176	178	128	139	104	218	166
Total	391	1,409	1,446	1,561	1,530	1,987	2,189	2,255	2,290	2,090	1,686	1,405
Private Ownership												
0-4	8,713	15,063	14,233	13,577	14,275	14,594	14,345	19,288	17,953	14,882	19,633	16,044
5-9	2,810	16,715	16,921	17,303	16,679	17,891	19,305	19,713	20,078	19,328	19,498	18,309
10-19	1,693	19,580	20,107	20,506	20,649	22,676	24,771	24,176	24,311	23,824	22,464	21,928
20-49	958	25,308	25,602	26,160	26,783	28,402	31,039	32,845	33,237	31,836	27,989	27,201
50-99	291	16,399	16,981	17,418	19,227	20,694	22,299	21,937	21,893	21,304	18,587	17,798
100-249	183	22,049	23,613	24,219	26,258	28,341	30,264	27,446	27,765	27,148	27,011	26,201
250-499	59	18,645	20,000	19,908	19,760	20,552	21,962	25,235	24,587	23,270	18,193	18,439
500-999	28	18,842	19,637	19,459	17,280	18,734	21,114	21,968	21,729	20,531	15,330	14,943
1000 +	12	16,230	17,440	17,492	18,009	17,544	18,643	20,369	20,679	20,363	19,542	19,429
Total	14,747	168,831	174,534	176,042	178,920	189,428	203,742	212,977	212,232	202,486	188,247	180,292

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

Figure • 4

Firms Employing 100+ Paid 51% of the Wages
Total Wages Paid by Firm Size, 1995

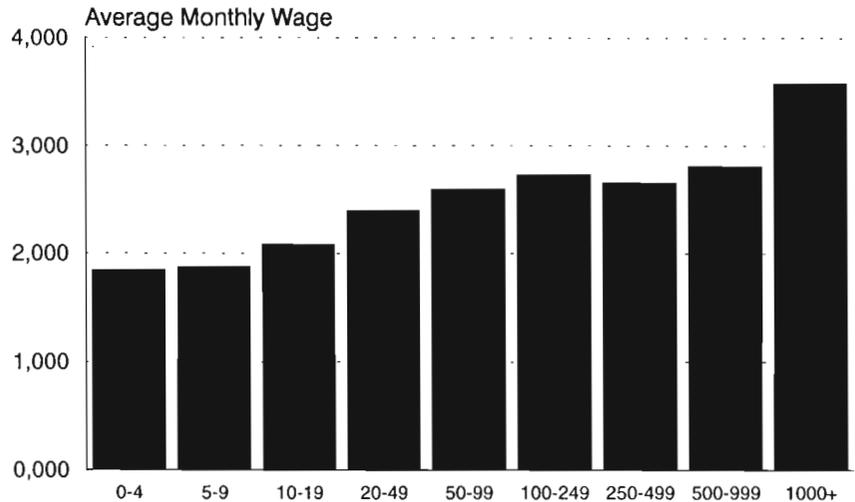
Dec.	Ann. Avg. Emp.	Yearly Earnings	Ann. Avg. Mo. Earn
873	1,003	\$24,983,135	\$2,076
1,325	1,286	31,672,438	2,052
1,425	1,585	46,763,014	2,459
3,011	3,189	109,211,298	2,854
3,010	3,065	106,876,744	2,906
3,638	4,183	175,549,648	3,498
3,364	3,856	144,239,731	3,117
4,737	4,735	269,065,488	4,736
21,383	22,900	908,361,496	3,306
3,750	4,150	74,098,912	1,488
5,627	5,775	99,008,526	1,429
7,263	7,147	135,690,805	1,582
7,646	8,275	172,661,240	1,739
5,702	5,607	130,724,511	1,943
7,674	7,209	156,856,139	1,813
4,690	4,815	105,625,713	1,828
11,295	11,141	229,559,447	3,418
53,647	54,119	1,104,225,293	1,700
912	950	21,233,568	1,863
1,031	995	26,113,304	2,187
1,327	1,323	37,555,999	2,366
1,955	1,875	66,474,913	2,955
1,317	1,567	56,008,123	2,978
1,036	851	30,296,055	2,968
2,978	3,057	86,163,769	2,349
10,556	10,617	323,845,731	2,542
5,957	6,409	137,052,548	1,782
7,332	7,233	158,488,268	1,826
7,907	8,137	185,621,834	1,901
9,220	9,504	235,673,052	2,066
5,333	5,700	148,962,542	2,178
8,050	8,035	199,403,924	2,068
6,608	6,847	190,023,092	2,313
8,051	7,493	194,143,770	2,159
58,458	59,358	1,449,369,030	2,035
295	367	8,173,317	1,855
199	311	6,823,015	1,830
328	397	10,456,750	2,196
378	559	15,906,187	2,370
216	138	3,791,691	2,288
1,416	1,772	45,150,960	2,123
14,029	15,660	346,502,454	1,844
18,080	18,318	411,969,128	1,874
21,682	22,223	554,763,267	2,080
26,657	28,588	821,882,459	2,396
18,004	19,378	602,823,007	2,592
25,540	26,321	861,573,941	2,728
18,436	20,749	660,669,994	2,653
15,145	18,726	630,776,626	2,807
19,353	18,758	805,196,956	3,577
176,926	188,721	5,696,157,832	2,515



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

Figure • 5

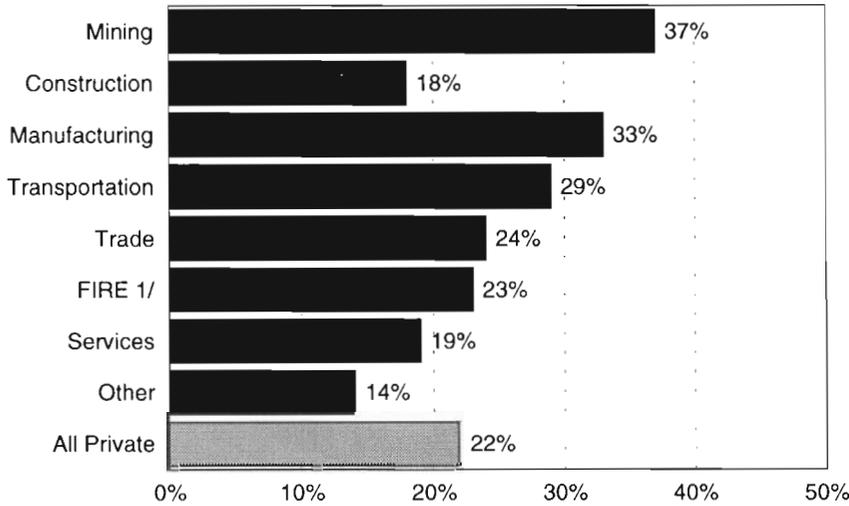
Bigger Firms Have A Higher Average Wage
1995 Average Monthly Wage by Firm Size



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

Figure • 6

Construction, Services Firms Tend to be Smaller
Percent of Firms Over 10 Employees, 1995



1/ Finance, Insurance and Real Estate.

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

Slow Growth Continues in July

by Neal Fried

With more than half the summer season gone, a preliminary look at 1996's economic performance is possible. Alaska's economy continues to grow, albeit slowly. Compared to July 1995, employment grew by 0.5%, or 1,300 jobs. (See Table 1.) For the first seven months of 1996, employment increased 0.7%—the slowest annual growth rate for the past decade, but, nevertheless, growth.

No single factor explains the modest rate of job growth. Some industries sustained small

employment losses while others inched ahead. The remaining industries appeared stuck in neutral.

Services lead the charge

Expansion in services is sustaining Alaska's employment growth. Services generated the largest number of new jobs since last July (1,400) and also outperformed most industries in terms of percentage growth (2.2%). The service industry is an eclectic group of

employers—ranging from higher paying legal, medical, and engineering and management service providers to less lucrative wage industries such as hotel, personal, social, and entertainment services.

Continuing last year's trend, medical services remains a leading contributor to the industry's growth. Expert sources suggest some of this sector's growth has resulted from health care professionals moving to Alaska to escape managed care. Business services also continues its almost uninterrupted job growth drive. The surge in temporary help services and the trend of contracting out are propelling this segment of the service industry. Employment growth in social services has also bolstered services.

Visitor sector boosts several industries

Although it is too early to definitively assess this year's visitor season, by most accounts, Alaska is enjoying another strong year. Cruise ship traffic is up, and air traffic at the state's biggest airports is running ahead of last year's levels. Bed taxes collected in Anchorage are also above 1995 levels. Services, retail trade, transportation and other industries benefit from this increasing tourism. One soft spot is Alaska Highway traffic. Border crossings for June compared to last June were down 33%, and businesses dependent on highway traffic are reporting a weaker year.

Construction numbers remain healthy

Construction is enjoying its fourth straight year of growth. Three projects anchoring this industry presently employ a combined work force in excess of 1,100: the Fort Knox gold mine in Fairbanks—at the moment the single largest project in the state; the Clean Coal Project in Healy; and the new hospital on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. Residential construction also appears to be up, highway construction remains stable, and many medium and small projects are keeping the state's contractors busy.

Retail inches ahead

Growth in different segments of retail trade added 900 jobs to this industry compared to last July. Restaurants and drinking places showed the largest gains. In June, two sizable brew-pubs opened in Anchorage, and smaller eateries started up around the state. Building supply retailers also added employees, reflecting the growth in the construction industry. Elsewhere in retail, two national retailers, Computer USA and Barnes and Noble, entered Alaska's market with new stores in Anchorage.

Air transportation making a comeback

Although comparisons to last year in air transportation remained negative, job losses narrowed as the industry recovers from the closures of MarkAir and MarkAir Express. A healthy demand for air travel spurred expansion at other airlines and has helped fill the gap. Also performing well in the transportation industry were trucking and local ground transportation firms. A strong construction season and a healthy visitor sector helped boost job counts at these firms.

Firefighters keep public sector in the black

As in June, more than twice as many firefighters worked in the state in July than a year ago. Without these gains, state government employment, including the University of Alaska, would have experienced no job growth. Local government employment is up slightly and federal government continues to slide. Federal government employment in July was 500 smaller than last year's level. One positive sign is that the rate of decline is slowing.

Timber and seafood processing in tough shape

Seafood processing employment, which provides over 80 percent of the manufacturing

Neal Fried is a labor economist with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. He is located in Anchorage.

T a b l e • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska	p/		Changes from			Municipality of Anchorage	p/		Changes from		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95		7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	283,500	279,500	282,200	4,000	1,300	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	124,600	125,000	123,500	-400	1,100
Goods-producing	51,900	45,300	53,400	6,600	-1,500	Goods-producing	12,700	12,400	13,000	300	-300
Service-producing	231,600	234,200	228,800	-2,600	2,800	Service-producing	111,900	112,600	110,500	-700	1,400
Mining	10,400	10,400	10,500	0	-100	Mining	2,700	2,800	2,600	-100	100
Construction	16,200	15,600	16,000	600	200	Construction	7,600	7,300	7,900	300	-300
Manufacturing	25,300	19,300	26,900	6,000	-1,600	Manufacturing	2,400	2,300	2,500	100	-100
Durable Goods	3,600	3,700	3,800	-100	-200	Transportation	12,100	12,000	12,100	100	0
Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,400	2,600	-100	-300	Air Transportation	4,400	4,300	4,500	100	-100
Nondurable Goods	21,700	15,600	23,100	6,100	-1,400	Communications	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
Seafood Processing	18,700	12,300	19,900	6,400	-1,200	Trade	31,300	31,100	30,500	200	800
Pulp Mills	300	600	500	-300	-200	Wholesale Trade	6,700	6,600	6,600	100	100
Transportation	24,800	24,700	24,700	100	100	Retail Trade	24,600	24,500	23,900	100	700
Trucking & Warehousing	3,600	3,400	3,400	200	200	Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100
Water Transportation	2,500	2,400	2,500	100	0	Food Stores	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
Air Transportation	7,700	7,700	7,800	0	-100	Eating & Drinking Places	8,900	8,900	8,600	0	300
Communications	3,900	3,900	3,800	0	100	Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,100	7,200	7,200	-100	-100
Trade	59,200	58,800	58,200	400	1,000	Services & Misc.	34,200	34,500	33,400	-300	800
Wholesale Trade	9,200	9,000	9,100	200	100	Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,800	2,600	-200	0
Retail Trade	50,000	49,800	49,100	200	900	Health Services	7,000	6,900	6,800	100	200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,400	9,500	9,400	-100	0	Government	27,200	27,800	27,300	-600	-100
Food Stores	7,700	7,700	7,600	0	100	Federal	10,400	10,400	10,700	0	-300
Eating & Drinking Places	17,500	17,500	17,100	0	400	State	7,500	7,600	7,400	-100	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,800	11,900	11,900	-100	-100	Local	9,300	9,800	9,200	-500	100
Services & Misc.	66,500	66,100	65,100	400	1,400						
Hotels & Lodging Places	8,800	8,500	8,800	300	0						
Health Services	13,700	13,800	13,300	-100	400						
Government	69,300	72,700	68,900	-3,400	400						
Federal	17,800	17,800	18,300	0	-500						
State	20,700	21,200	20,100	-500	600						
Local	30,800	33,700	30,500	-2,900	300						

T a b l e • 2

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 7/96	r/ 6/96	7/95	p/ 7/96	r/ 6/96	7/95	p/ 7/96	r/ 6/96	7/95
Mining	\$1,253.69	\$1,211.42	\$1,283.08	53.1	50.9	52.2	\$23.61	\$23.80	\$24.58
Construction	1,210.00	1,203.65	1,279.46	47.1	47.5	48.1	25.69	25.34	26.60
Manufacturing	574.72	476.32	560.97	52.2	39.3	54.2	11.01	12.12	10.35
Seafood Processing	539.75	343.68	505.34	56.4	38.4	57.1	9.57	8.95	8.85
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	699.98	717.71	687.96	36.1	36.9	36.4	19.39	19.45	18.90
Trade	414.18	431.90	431.43	34.4	35.0	36.5	12.04	12.34	11.82
Wholesale	654.94	681.89	699.84	38.8	39.9	40.5	16.88	17.09	17.28
Retail	369.94	386.69	382.70	33.6	34.1	35.8	11.01	11.34	10.69
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	480.85	491.88	468.85	36.1	36.9	35.9	13.32	13.33	13.06

Notes to Tables 1-3:

Tables 1 and 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.

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 1995

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Southeast Region	p/		Changes from		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	40,200	38,150	40,150	2,050	50
Goods-producing	8,100	6,300	8,300	1,800	-200
Service-producing	32,100	31,850	31,850	250	250
Mining	300	300	200	0	100
Construction	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	100
Manufacturing	5,800	4,000	6,200	1,800	-400
Durable Goods	1,850	1,850	2,000	0	-150
Lumber & Wood Products	1,700	1,700	1,850	0	-150
Nondurable Goods	3,950	2,150	4,200	1,800	-250
Seafood Processing	3,400	1,350	3,450	2,050	-50
Pulp Mills	350	550	500	-200	-150
Transportation	3,600	3,550	3,500	50	100
Trade	7,700	7,600	7,650	100	50
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	0	0
Retail Trade	7,150	7,050	7,100	100	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,450	1,500	1,450	-50	0
Services & Misc.	7,600	7,350	7,500	250	100
Government	11,750	11,850	11,750	-100	0
Federal	2,050	2,050	2,050	0	0
State	5,200	5,250	5,200	-50	0
Local	4,500	4,550	4,500	-50	0

Interior Region	p/		Changes from:		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	40,000	39,900	38,800	100	1,200
Goods-producing	4,950	4,800	4,600	150	350
Service-producing	35,050	35,100	34,200	-50	850
Mining	1,100	1,150	1,000	-50	100
Construction	3,150	3,000	2,950	150	200
Manufacturing	700	650	650	50	50
Transportation	3,500	3,450	3,400	50	100
Trade	8,650	8,550	8,600	100	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,050	0	0
Services & Misc.	9,700	9,650	9,250	50	450
Government	12,150	12,400	11,900	-250	250
Federal	3,850	3,750	3,950	100	-100
State	4,350	4,400	4,150	-50	200
Local	3,950	4,250	3,800	-300	150

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	p/		Changes from		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	135,950	137,000	134,650	-1,050	1,300
Goods-producing	13,800	13,450	14,100	350	-300
Service-producing	122,150	123,550	120,550	-1,400	1,600
Mining	2,700	2,750	2,700	-50	0
Construction	8,600	8,250	8,750	350	-150
Manufacturing	2,500	2,450	2,650	50	-150
Transportation	13,200	13,050	13,250	150	-50
Trade	34,100	34,000	33,250	100	850
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,550	7,650	7,600	-100	-50
Services & Misc.	37,250	37,350	36,400	-100	850
Government	30,050	31,500	30,050	-1,450	0
Federal	10,550	10,550	10,800	0	-250
State	8,500	8,900	8,250	-400	250
Local	11,000	12,050	11,000	-1,050	0

Fairbanks North Star Borough	p/		Changes from		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	34,050	34,000	33,350	50	700
Goods-producing	4,300	4,350	3,950	-50	350
Service-producing	29,750	29,650	29,400	100	350
Mining	900	900	850	0	50
Construction	2,750	2,850	2,500	-100	250
Manufacturing	650	600	600	50	50
Transportation	2,750	2,700	2,700	50	50
Trucking & Warehousing	650	600	600	50	50
Air Transportation	550	550	550	0	0
Communications	300	300	300	0	0
Trade	7,850	7,750	7,850	100	0
Wholesale Trade	850	850	850	0	0
Retail Trade	7,000	6,900	7,000	100	0
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,250	1,250	1,300	0	-50
Food Stores	800	800	800	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,950	2,850	3,000	100	-50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,000	950	0	50
Services & Misc.	8,450	8,450	8,250	0	200
Government	9,700	9,750	9,650	-50	50
Federal	3,150	3,100	3,250	50	-100
State	3,950	3,950	3,850	0	100
Local	2,600	2,700	2,550	-100	50

Gulf Coast Region	p/		Changes from		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,550	30,300	33,000	2,250	-450
Goods-producing	10,900	8,350	11,400	2,550	-500
Service-producing	21,650	21,950	21,600	-300	50
Mining	1,150	1,100	1,200	50	-50
Construction	1,450	1,400	1,450	50	0
Manufacturing	8,300	5,850	8,750	2,450	-450
Seafood Processing	6,950	4,500	7,400	2,450	-450
Transportation	2,400	2,450	2,450	-50	-50
Trade	5,950	5,750	5,900	200	50
Wholesale Trade	650	600	700	50	-50
Retail Trade	5,300	5,150	5,200	150	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	750	750	750	0	0
Services & Misc.	6,300	6,200	6,350	100	-50
Government	6,250	6,800	6,150	-550	100
Federal	700	750	750	-50	-50
State	1,750	1,700	1,650	50	100
Local	3,800	4,350	3,750	-550	50

Southwest Region	p/		Changes from		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	19,850	18,450	20,150	1,400	-300
Goods-producing	8,550	6,600	9,000	1,950	-450
Service-producing	11,300	11,850	11,150	-550	150
Seafood Processing	8,100	6,250	8,650	1,850	-550
Government	4,600	5,250	4,650	-650	-50
Federal	550	550	600	0	-50
State	550	650	550	-100	0
Local	3,500	4,050	3,500	-550	0

Northern Region	p/		Changes from		
	7/96	6/96	7/95	6/96	7/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,600	15,900	15,400	-300	200
Goods-producing	5,800	5,800	5,800	0	0
Service-producing	9,800	10,100	9,600	-300	200
Mining	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0
Government	4,550	4,950	4,500	-400	50
Federal	200	200	250	0	-50
State	300	300	300	0	0
Local	4,050	4,450	3,950	-400	100

jobs in the state, has fallen as price woes in the salmon industry and a smaller harvest have clipped employment. In July, seafood processing employment was 6%, or 1,200 jobs, below year-ago figures. Elsewhere in manufacturing, all segments of the timber industry—pulp, logging and sawmills—are losing ground. Ketchikan Pulp, the industry's largest remaining employer, recently warned that it would close if its timber contract with the Forest Service is not extended. Nearly all the timber losses are confined to Southeast Alaska, contributing to higher unemployment rates in Ketchikan and on Prince of Wales Island. (See Table 4.)

Unemployment rate changes little

Alaska's unemployment rate fell in July to 6.3%, approaching its seasonal low point. (See Table 4.) The comparable national unemployment rate for July was 5.6%. Compared to last year, Alaska's unemployment rate for six of the last seven months has been a bit higher than in 1995. The primary reason for this higher rate is probably slower job growth.

Latest Anchorage inflation rate 2.6%

According to the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, living in Anchorage during the first half of 1996 cost 2.6% more than for the same period last year. The national rate was 2.8%. This increase continues a five-year trend of low inflation. Small rises in housing and food costs and declines in apparel helped keep cost-of-living increases in check. Medical care, however, increased at a nearly double-digit rate—9.9%. Anchorage is the only community in Alaska for which inflation is measured; therefore, its index is usually used to represent the entire state.

T a b l e • 4

Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	p/ 7/96	r/ 6/96	7/95
United States	5.6	5.5	5.9
Alaska Statewide	6.3	7.2	5.9
Anch.-MatSu Region	5.6	6.0	5.2
Municipality of Anchorage	4.8	5.2	4.5
MatSu Borough	9.2	9.6	8.6
Gulf Coast Region	7.6	11.1	7.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	9.2	10.9	8.5
Kodiak Island Borough	3.9	13.6	3.9
Valdez-Cordova	6.4	8.0	6.4
Interior Region	6.6	7.3	6.7
Denali Borough	2.6	4.1	2.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.2	6.7	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks	9.2	9.4	8.6
Yukon-Koyukuk	15.1	18.9	17.0
Northern Region	11.8	13.5	10.9
Nome	13.0	15.7	13.2
North Slope Borough	5.0	6.3	3.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	19.2	19.8	17.4
Southeast Region	5.8	6.2	5.3
Haines Borough	6.4	5.8	6.7
Juneau Borough	5.1	5.2	5.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6.5	6.5	4.5
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	11.2	12.1	6.4
Sitka Borough	4.3	5.3	5.5
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	4.5	4.8	4.2
Wrangell-Petersburg	5.4	7.3	6.8
Yakutat Borough	4.9	5.9	4.1
Southwest Region	7.0	8.4	6.0
Aleutians East Borough	4.9	3.8	2.5
Aleutians West	2.7	3.3	1.9
Bethel	8.9	10.8	7.6
Bristol Bay Borough	4.5	7.7	3.4
Dillingham	6.4	7.7	4.1
Lake & Peninsula Borough	8.8	11.4	7.0
Wade Hampton	12.0	13.8	13.1
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	5.4	5.2	5.7
Alaska Statewide	7.6	7.5	6.9

p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Benchmark: March 1995

- 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 and Analysis Section.

Alaska Employment Service

Anchorage: Phone 269-4800

Bethel: Phone 543-2210

Dillingham: Phone 842-5579

Eagle River: Phone 694-6904/07

Mat-Su: Phone 376-2407/08

Fairbanks: Phone 451-2871

Glennallen: Phone 822-3350

Kotzebue: Phone 442-3280

Nome: Phone 443-2626/2460

Tok: Phone 883-5629

Valdez: Phone 835-4910

Kenai: Phone 283-4304/4377/4319

Homer: Phone 235-7791

Kodiak: Phone 486-3105

Seward: Phone 224-5276

Juneau: Phone 465-4562

Petersburg: Phone 772-3791

Sitka: Phone 747-3347/3423/6921

Ketchikan: Phone 225-3181/82/83



Alaska Economic Regions

The Alaska Department of Labor shall foster and promote the welfare of the wage earners of the state and improve their working conditions and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.