

TRENDS



1999 in Review
Benchmark Revision
Employment Scene

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1999: The Year in Review

By Rachel Baker, John Boucher,
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Consolidations and oil patch woes slow 1999 growth to 0.9%

Despite job losses due to consolidation, Alaska's economy managed to post its eleventh consecutive year of job gains in 1999. Alaska's job base grew 2,600 jobs, pushing the annual average wage and salary employment to 277,600. (See Exhibit 1.)

Some significant events adversely affected 1999's job count. A contraction in Alaska's oil and gas industry, continued struggles in Alaska's manufacturing sector, and the consolidation of two of Alaska's most prominent retailers, were drags on Alaska's job growth. Overall, statewide job growth slowed to 0.9%, down substantially from the 2.3% rate of growth posted in 1998. This was the second-slowest growth rate this decade. (See Exhibit 2.)

The main reason some growth was maintained was that Alaska's services sector offset the job losses associated with the negative events. Also, retailers, construction companies, and transportation firms assisted in moving the job count higher. In Alaska's public sector, the overall job totals showed little change, but that belied the churning that occurred during the year. Privatization of federal and local government entities spurred private sector job growth higher.

Among regions, Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough grew the fastest in 1999. Northern and Southwest Alaska were the only areas to experience job losses. (See Exhibit 3.)

Services sector leads growth

Alaska's services industry takes most of the credit for the 1999 statewide job count's ending up in the black. Services accounted for 2,300 additional jobs in 1999, while overall statewide job growth was 2,600 jobs. Services growth was broad-based with many segments contributing and very few showing declines.

Health care providers made some of the largest gains in the services sector last year. This sector was bolstered by continued

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Alaska 1998-1999

	1998	1999	Change	Percent Change
Total Wage & Salary	275,000	277,600	2,600	0.9%
Goods-producing	38,600	37,200	-1,400	-3.6
Service-producing	236,400	240,400	4,000	1.7
Mining	10,800	9,500	-1,300	-12.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,300	8,000	-1,300	-14.0
Construction	13,400	13,800	400	3.0
Manufacturing	14,400	13,900	-500	-3.5
Durable Goods	2,800	2,900	100	3.6
Lumber & Wood Products	1,600	1,700	100	6.3
Nondurable Goods	11,600	11,100	-500	-4.3
Seafood Processing	9,000	8,500	-500	-5.6
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	25,500	26,100	600	2.4
Trucking & Warehousing	3,000	2,900	-100	-3.3
Water Transportation	1,900	1,900	0	0.0
Air Transportation	9,200	9,400	200	2.2
Communications	4,400	4,800	400	9.1
Electric/Gas/Sanitary	2,600	2,700	100	3.8
Trade	56,500	57,300	800	1.4
Wholesale Trade	9,000	9,000	0	0.0
Retail Trade	47,600	48,300	700	1.5
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,000	9,400	400	4.4
Food Stores	7,100	6,900	-200	-2.8
Eating/Drinking Places	16,200	16,600	400	2.5
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	12,500	12,800	300	2.4
Services & Misc.	68,200	70,500	2,300	3.4
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,700	7,100	400	6.0
Business Services	8,600	8,700	100	1.2
Health Services	15,000	15,600	600	4.0
Legal Services	1,600	1,700	100	6.3
Social Services	7,400	7,800	400	5.4
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	7,800	7,900	100	1.3
Government	73,700	73,600	-100	-0.1
Federal	17,200	16,800	-400	-2.3
State	21,500	21,800	300	1.4
Local	34,900	35,100	200	0.6

Benchmark: March 1999. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

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

growth in the variety of medical care services offered, as well as the privatization of the largest remaining Indian Health Service facility—the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage.

Investment in Alaska's tourism and travel industry also meant job growth for services. Bolstered by the opening of several properties, hotels and lodging places contributed a good portion of the services job growth.

Social services was another fast growing segment as family and social service organizations, child day care services, and residential care facilities added jobs in 1999. Also showing job growth were membership organizations, often in the form of traditional village councils.

Education-related services also played a role in job growth last year. A boost in Head Start programs and the opening of the Alaska Native Heritage Center were key events helping this sector post solid employment growth.

Despite Safeway/Carrs consolidation, retailers post job gain

Fueled by growth in eating and drinking establishments and general merchandise and apparel stores, retail employment was the second-largest contributor to private-sector job gains.

Eating and drinking establishments added 400 new jobs, posting a sixth consecutive year of growth. Meanwhile, general merchandise stores added another 400 retail jobs, primarily due to store openings in Anchorage, Kodiak, and the Mat-Su Borough. Car dealers and gas stations also had a banner year, adding 300 new jobs. Miscellaneous retailers, primarily on the strength of gift, novelty and souvenir shops, also contributed to job growth.

These job gains occurred against a backdrop of the most significant retail development in Alaska since the entrance of Wal-Mart and Kmart into the Alaska market in the early 1990s. Safeway purchased Alaska's largest private sector employer, Carrs, initiating a major consolidation in Alaska's food store sector. Upward of 400 jobs, many at the Carrs' administrative center in Anchorage, were lost in the consolidation process.

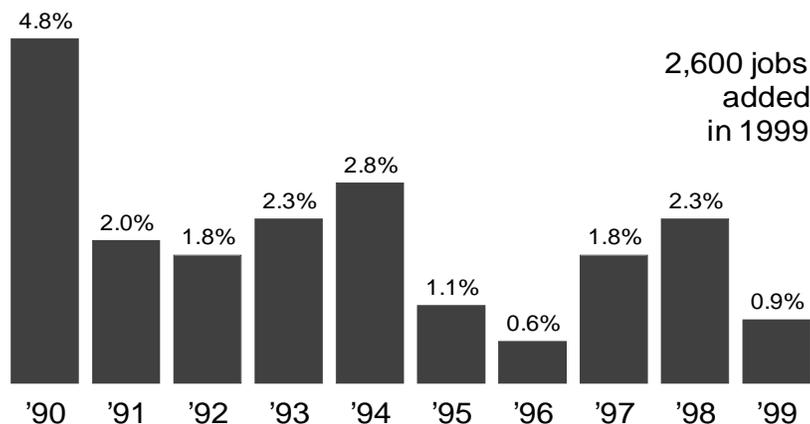
Privatization, air transportation, push transportation forward

The transportation, communications and public utilities sector contributed the third highest number of new jobs in 1999, adding jobs at a 2.4% clip. Alaska's rapidly evolving telecommunications industry was a big contributor to job gains. Investment in new communications technologies and the privatization of the Anchorage Telephone Utility were major contributors to job growth in 1999. Anchorage International Airport continued to grow as a hub for international cargo. That activity, combined with tourist traffic, translated into 200 new jobs in air transportation. Elsewhere in the transportation sector, the job picture was mixed. Low levels of exploration and development activity on Alaska's North Slope curtailed trucking industry activity, and low levels of manufacturing activity stymied water transportation.

Construction, finance post another solid year

Alaska had another solid construction season in 1999. The construction industry moved ahead 400 jobs, a 3.0% growth rate. Given the poor performance in the oil and gas sector and a slowing

2 Statewide Job Growth Rate 0.9% Percent employment change from previous year



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

residential construction market, this sector of Alaska's economy performed admirably in 1999. New retail space and hotels were among the job engines in the commercial construction sector. Federally funded projects, both military and highway related, also helped bolster the industry, while state and locally funded projects such as schools and other public facilities helped out as well.

Publicly funded construction activity also propelled growth in Alaska's finance, insurance and real estate sector in 1999. Publicly funded regional housing authorities added employees to refurbish and build rural low-income housing. Alaska's banking sector, spurred on by refinancing activity, also saw some growth. Some major shakeups occurred in Alaska's banking sector in 1999. Bank of America pulled out of Alaska, selling most of its branches to Northrim Bank. Wells Fargo purchased National Bank of Alaska, the largest bank in the state, late in the year.

Oil industry sheds nearly fifteen percent of all jobs

Alaska's oil and gas industry, particularly the oil field services sector, experienced one of its roughest years in recent memory in 1999. After an extremely strong year for exploration and development activity in 1998, Alaska's oil and gas industry fell prey to low oil prices. An unprecedented consolidation in the oil field services sector resulted, topped off by the announcement that Alaska's two largest oil producers, BPAmoco and ARCO, would merge through BPAmoco's purchase of ARCO. In the process, Alaska's oil and gas sector shed 1,300 jobs in a calendar year comparison, a 14 percent loss of oil industry jobs in the state.

Low prices, in particular gold prices, also meant a contraction in employment in minerals mining in 1999. Alaska's large scale mines all survived and some even thrived in the current low price environment. The Greens Creek and Fort Knox mines had solid years while an expansion project at Red Dog increased that mine's production capacity and resulted in incremental job gains.

Alaska's small and medium size mines struggled as some downsized and others ceased operations.

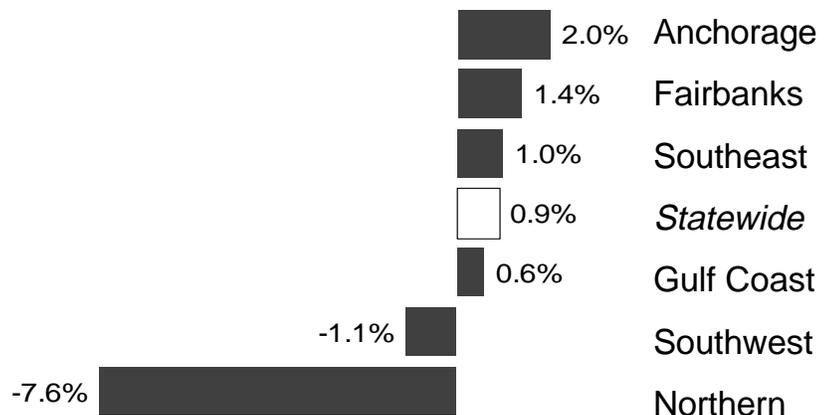
Seafood processors among largest job losers

Alaska's seafood processors posted 500 fewer jobs than in 1998. Two consecutive poor years in Bristol Bay resulted in processors curtailing operations in the region. Even though 1999's sockeye run rebounded from the previous two years, production capacity was not increased. Another seafood industry development was a significant drop in employment related to the winter fisheries in 1999. Seafood processing posted its lowest level of employment for the January-March period since 1991, down about 1,000 jobs from the same quarter in 1998. Another factor that may have contributed to lower levels of employment was the labor shortages reported by many seafood processors throughout the year.

Employment appeared to grow slightly in Alaska's lumber and wood products industry in 1999, but a portion of that was due to an administrative reporting change which moved administrative employees of Ketchikan Pulp Company from the pulp to the sawmill sector. At year's end, additional

Anchorage Leads Regional Growth 3

Percent change in employment 1998-1999



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

sawmill closures and logging layoffs marked another year of contraction for the timber industry in Alaska.

Federal government loses, state and local governments grow

Alaska's public sector employers saw a slight loss on balance, when federal government employment dropped while state and local government inched up slightly. Privatization of the Alaska Native Medical Center, and continued downsizing of civilian military and federal agency employment accounted for the federal loss in 1999. State government employment saw a slight increase, primarily at the University of Alaska. At the local level, new school facilities and attempts to lower pupil-teacher ratios nudged employment up. The gain in local employment was notable in that it offset the negative effects of the privatization of the Anchorage Telephone Utility (ATU).

ANCHORAGE:

Average growth year belies changes afoot

In 1999, employment in Anchorage grew two percent—close to the decade's annual average growth rate of 1.8%. (See Exhibit 4.) While employment growth could be considered average

in 1999, that belies the dramatic events that both influenced last year's employment numbers and will continue to be felt for years to come. The proposed merger of BP Amoco and ARCO, privatization of Anchorage Telephone Utilities and the Alaska Native Hospital, Safeway's buyout of Carrs, and the sale of National Bank of Alaska to Wells Fargo are reshaping Anchorage's economy. As the headquarters city to all of these companies, Anchorage is feeling the effect of these actions disproportionately and will continue to do so.

Last year's performance was a slowdown from 1998's robust 3.9% growth. Unlike 1998, when it experienced a major rebound, the oil industry went through a severe contraction. Nearly all of the city's other industries managed to grow, but without the zest of 1998. (See Exhibit 5.)

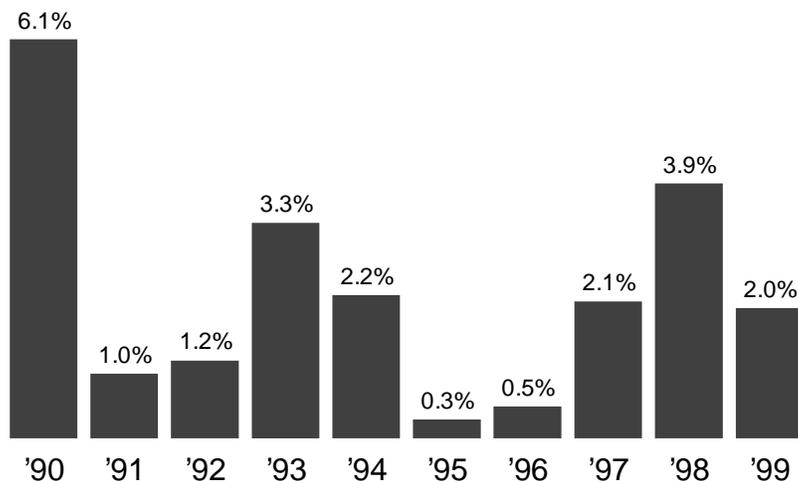
Despite average employment growth, 1999 was another good year for job seekers. The unemployment rate was at 4.5%, the second lowest in history behind 1998's record low of 4.1%. This was one of the lowest rates in the state and mirrors the national rate, which hit a 30-year low this past year. This improved jobless rate was backed up by much anecdotal evidence of labor shortages reported by employers, the media, and others.

Oil hits the rocks in 1999

After a stellar performance and strong gains in 1998, the state's oil and gas industry hit the skids in 1999, with low oil prices the culprit. When it came to layoffs, no time was wasted. At the beginning of the year, BP's layoffs of 620 began; 220 of these lost jobs were in BP and the rest were the company's contractors, the largest being NANA services. As the year progressed, other deep cuts hit oil field service companies. Many of these lost jobs were direct hits for Anchorage. Oil industry employment fell by 10 percent but losses in other industries, such as services, were also sizeable. In the midst of this downsizing, there were a few rays of sunshine. Construction of modules for the Alpine projects continued in Anchorage through most of the year and oil prices began to bounce back in April.

4 Anchorage Growth Slows

Percent employment change from previous year



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

Good news in construction

In 1999, construction was one of the more dynamic sectors in Anchorage's economy. Employment grew at twice the rate of the rest of the economy. No one project or segment dominated the industry picture. Residential construction softened, possibly because of the woes in the oil patch. The number of permits for new housing units fell from a decade record high of 1,771 in 1998 to 1,284 in 1999. Even with these losses, 1999 will still go down as the third strongest permit year in the 1990s. The number of permits for multi-family units remained strong, along with the entry-level market. The biggest weakness was in the high-end market. Commercial, public, and highway construction projects more than made up for the declining residential activity. Some of the big projects that continued into 1999 included the Alaska Seafood International, the new Post Exchange/Commissary, the 370-room Marriott hotel, the ARCO modules for the Alpine project, and a number of new elementary schools. New activity included the beginning of the \$200 million airport rebuild/expansion, the completion of the Minnesota bypass, and two new Office Depots. A strong season in the Mat-Su Valley also provided a boost for Anchorage contractors.

A strange year for retail

Employment in retail grew in 1999, but only by a hair. The industry under-performed the overall labor market. This occurred despite the addition of two new Office Depots, a Pier 1 Imports, an Old Navy, a new Gap, two large restaurants, and a number of smaller retailers. The biggest explanation for its weakness comes from the effects of the Carrs buyout. Nearly all the Carrs administrative staff was laid off. As a result, grocery store employment actually fell by 100 jobs or 3.4%.

Air transportation continued to grow

Air transportation growth certainly did not earn the industry star status in 1999, but it grew nevertheless. Employment at many larger carriers inched up in 1999, which was considered a decent year by most of these players. The visitor season was strong

and the Asian markets began to turn around. Passenger counts and cargo volumes changed little in fiscal year 1999. Some regional air carriers such as Yute Air cut back service and employment.

Services leads employment growth

Services was Anchorage's leader in job growth in 1999. More than half of Anchorage's new jobs came from the multitude of different players in services. One of them was hotels. 1999 could be called the year for new hotels in Anchorage. Three new hotels opened, adding 200 jobs to the workforce. Health care was another leader in services, up five percent. Not all these gains represent new job growth. Private sector health care began to get a big boost from the privatization of the Native Hospital and other Indian Health Services in Anchorage. For example, in 1998, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium had fewer

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Anchorage 1998-1999 5

	1998	1999	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	128,700	131,300	2,600	2.0%
Goods-producing	12,000	12,100	100	0.8
Service-producing	2,000	2,100	100	5.0
Mining	116,700	119,200	2,500	2.1
Oil & Gas Extraction	3,000	2,700	-300	-10.0
Construction	2,900	2,600	-300	-10.3
Manufacturing	7,000	7,300	300	4.3
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	13,200	13,800	600	4.5
Air Transportation	5,800	5,900	100	1.7
Communications	2,600	3,100	500	19.2
Trade	31,000	31,400	400	1.3
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,400	0	0.0
Retail Trade	24,600	25,000	400	1.6
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	4,600	4,700	100	2.2
Food Stores	2,900	2,800	-100	-3.4
Eating & Drinking Places	8,800	9,000	200	2.3
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,500	7,700	200	2.7
Services & Misc.	36,300	37,800	1,500	4.1
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,700	2,900	200	7.4
Business Services	6,200	6,200	0	0.0
Health Services	7,800	8,200	400	5.1
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	0	0.0
Social Services	3,500	3,800	300	8.6
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	5,600	5,900	300	5.4
Government	28,600	28,500	-100	-0.3
Federal	10,000	9,800	-200	-2.0
State	8,400	8,600	200	2.4
Local	10,200	10,100	-100	-1.0

Benchmark: March 1999. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

than 10 employees, but by the end of 1999 they had more than 300. Not all of this gain came at the expense of federal employment. When federal employees leave or transfer to the consortium there are corresponding losses in federal employment. But in addition to these changes, the consortium hired new workers. Engineering, management and social services also contributed significantly to services growth in 1999.

Mixed picture on the public side

Federal employment fell by 200. Some of this loss came from the privatization of health care discussed above and military reductions. State government's employment grew 200, inching up at the university and other state agencies. Local government's losses are all related to the sale of ATU. After accounting for these changes, employment at both the Anchorage School District and the Municipality of Anchorage grew.

FAIRBANKS: 1.4% growth in 1999

Although growth slowed in 1999 to 1.4%, half of Fairbanks' 1998 growth rate, employment grew 450 jobs. (See Exhibits 6 and 7.) Nearly 80 percent of the new jobs were created by private sector industries, wedging more variety into Fairbanks' economy.

The strongest contribution came from the multi-

faceted service industries, particularly health care. Transportation industries, the real estate sector, and government were other sources of employment growth. But changing conditions in Fairbanks' important natural resource industries led to employment losses. Mining employment suffered in part because of the slowdown of North Slope oil industry activity. Its support industries also had to shed jobs. Gold mining enterprises were plagued by low world prices, but consolidation prevented job losses. Multiple ownership changes among Fairbanks' prominent retailers cancelled out other employment gains in trade.

A turbulent spring in oil and gold mining

At the beginning of 1999, low prices for Alaska's oil and gold caused concern in the community. Fairbanks' annual average oil industry employment fell by 20 percent from its 1998 level. The sluggish pace of new oil field development also affected residents who work on the North Slope. Although oil prices rebounded later in the year, industry employment did not recover. The low gear activities on the North Slope also slowed business for Fairbanks' oil support industry.

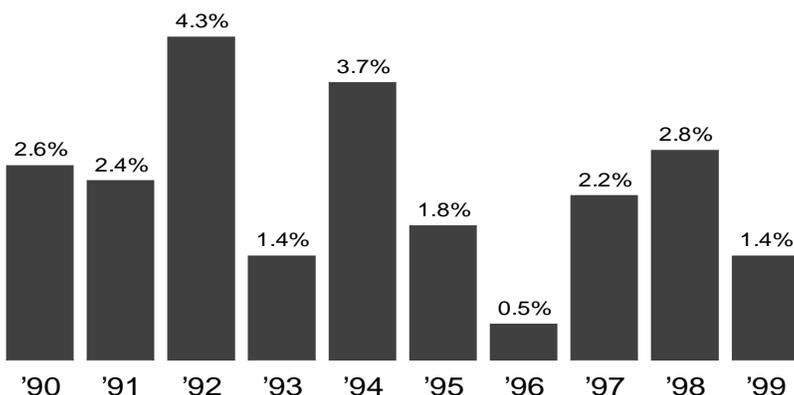
Although the downturn of gold prices prompted a few placer miners to scale back operations during the 1999 mining season, gold mining employment did not suffer losses in the Fairbanks region. In fact, it grew a bit. Exploration effort remained high in the local mining district. Despite an over five percent drop in annual average gold prices, Fort Knox, Alaska's largest gold mine with 270 workers, dodged the blows from world markets by lowering production costs. Kinross, owner of the mine, acquired the True North and Ryan Lode deposits, which could increase throughput at Fort Knox. The Fairbanks mining community also benefited from the Pogo exploration project located near Delta Junction because its logistic support is centered in Fairbanks.

A stable year for construction

Construction employment slowly recovered during the 1990s and became a solid supplier of jobs. In the past decade, the 1999 construction season was Fairbanks' third best. A series of projects, such as the new state courthouse and

6 Decade of Growth for Fairbanks

Percent employment change from previous year



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

other public construction, new hotel construction and one expansion, the hospital addition, the Doyon office complex, and a large movie theater helped to keep Fairbanks crews busy. Residential building showed about the same level of activity as in 1998.

Transportation, communications, utilities

Although employment grew 3.3% in Fairbanks' transportation, communication and utilities industry in 1999, not all changes were positive. Air transportation fared well and transit-cargo traffic increased, but passenger traffic lightened. Fairbanks' reputation as a cold weather test site for all types of aircraft has spread internationally, increasing the airport's list of clients. In communications, the local telephone utility lost its headquarter status. Ownership changed and the company became a division of the Anchorage-based Alaska Communications System.

The transition of Fairbanks' retail markets continued

Retail employment in Fairbanks has not grown since 1994. Structural changes continued in the retail sector and the most recent fusion of two major grocery chains countered employment growth. The Safeway acquisition of Carrs also meant that fewer grocery stores were competing in Fairbanks. Despite the changes, grocery store employment did not suffer job losses. A newcomer, Alaska Marketplace, entered the market and existing food stores hired more staff. Combined employment growth in other retail categories was sluggish as well. However, restaurant employment continued to grow and several new places opened their doors. Undoubtedly tourism played a role in restaurant employment growth and Fairbanks appeared to have a good season.

Tourism and services book good season

During the second and third quarter of the year, incoming passenger transit at the Canadian border was up by 10.3%. Visitors arriving by car often drive a northern loop to include Fairbanks and Denali National Park, two hours south of Fairbanks, on their itineraries. This past year, visitation at

Denali National Park rose about five percent and hotel receipts in the Fairbanks North Star Borough increased 4.2%. Visitor-related services employment benefited from the uptick of summer activity. Services expanded for Fairbanks residents as well. An addition to the Fairbanks Memorial Hospital helped to boost employment in health care. Military and other government contracts also helped augment services employment.

Housing authority activity boosts real estate

With the exception of 1999, finance, insurance and real estate has been a sector of slow growth. In 1999, it was the fastest growing major industry category in Fairbanks. However, the impressive annual nine percent growth rate translated into merely 100 new jobs. Growth was concentrated in the real estate component. The Interior Region Housing Authority received a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant of about \$10 million to upgrade and renovate housing in villages of the Interior. Other real estate employment also kept

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Fairbanks 1998-1999

	1998	1999	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,950	33,400	450	1.4%
Goods-producing	3,300	3,200	-100	-3.0
Service-producing	29,650	30,200	550	1.9
Mining	900	800	-100	-11.1
Construction	1,800	1,800	0	0.0
Manufacturing	600	600	0	0.0
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,000	3,100	100	3.3
Trucking & Warehousing	650	600	-50	-7.7
Air Transportation	750	900	150	20.0
Communications	450	450	0	0.0
Trade	6,900	6,900	0	0.0
Wholesale Trade	850	800	-50	-5.9
Retail Trade	6,000	6,150	150	2.5
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,200	1,200	0	0.0
Food Stores	750	750	0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,100	2,200	100	4.8
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,100	1,200	100	9.1
Services & Misc.	8,150	8,400	250	3.1
Hotels & Lodging Places	850	850	0	0.0
Health Services	1,850	1,950	100	5.4
Government	10,500	10,600	100	1.0
Federal	3,350	3,300	-50	-1.5
State	4,400	4,400	0	0.0
Local	2,800	2,950	150	5.4

Benchmark: March 1999. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

steady and business was brisk. Over 730 houses were sold in the Fairbanks North Star Borough in 1999, slightly up from 1998 sales. The average price per house increased a bit and three bedroom single family homes remained the best sellers in Fairbanks' real estate market.

Government helps job growth

Government added 100 new jobs in Fairbanks. Despite a decline in school enrollment, employment in education gained ground. Federal educational grants helped increase staff and reduce class sizes in elementary schools. State employment levels were flat, and the federal government trended downwards. The decline, however, occurred in seasonal employment.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA: Growth returns in 1999

The Southeast regional economy was surprisingly resilient in 1999, adding 350 jobs from the previous year after posting job losses in 1998. (See Exhibits 8 and 9.) Strong growth in services and local government overcame job losses in the mining, food stores, and federal government sectors. Job gains also came from the lumber and wood products, seafood processing, and retail sectors.

Services continued to be the fastest growing sector in Southeast, as it has been since 1997. The growth was divided among the hotel, amusement and recreation, and social services categories. The Mt. Roberts Tram and the White Pass and Yukon Railroad posted over-the-year employment gains in response to a healthy visitor season. The social services sector also continued to add jobs in counseling, assisted living, and custodial services. Growth in health care services remained flat over the year. This sector had been one of the fastest growing sectors in the Southeast region, but growth tapered off during 1999.

While significant gains were seen in services employment, a portion of the additional 350 jobs in the services sector came from an industry change as described in the benchmark article in this issue of *Trends*. The services sector gained

jobs that were shifted from the finance, insurance and real estate sector, which accounts for most of the 150 jobs lost in the finance sector over the year. Although employment at Southeast native corporations did decrease somewhat and job losses took place when the Bank of America branches closed in Ketchikan and Juneau, employment in the finance sector remained fairly stable during 1999.

Manufacturing industry adds to growth

A good salmon harvest contributed to higher earnings for fishers and employment growth in seafood processing in 1999. The pink salmon harvest was larger in 1999 than the previous year and the ex-vessel value for Southeast fishers increased by \$12.9 million. Seafood processing employment grew by 50 in 1999, and labor shortages limited additional growth in the Southeast region as it did elsewhere in the state. The employment growth came primarily from increased summer employment at the Norquest cannery in Petersburg. Increased activity at Allen Marine and Alaska Ship and Drydock also helped manufacturing employment. Both companies added employees during 1999 and are doing well.

Logging employment was stronger through most of 1999 and accounted for some of the timber industry growth. In addition, Gateway Forest Products took over operations at the former Ketchikan pulp mill site and increased employment at the sawmill operation. At the end of 1999, however, a sawmill closure on Annette Island and logging layoffs signaled more hard times for the timber industry.

Local, state government contribute

Although the federal government lost jobs in Southeast, strong gains in local and state government carried the public sector job growth. A portion of the losses in the federal government sector can be attributed to the reduced presence of the National Park Service (NPS) in Skagway. A long-term restoration project for the downtown area that had been underway for several years was finished in 1999. NPS personnel will still staff the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, but

additional employees will not be needed for restoration work.

The job gains in local government came primarily from the non-education sector, and the same was true with state government. Local government gains came from the packing company on Annette Island, Ketchikan General Hospital, and borough governments. State agency employment in Southeast was running above the previous year through July of 1999, then fell below the 1998 levels for the rest of the year.

Grocery losses limit retail growth

Retail trade continued to grow in the Southeast region, gaining 50 jobs over the year. Most of the gain came in eating and drinking establishments and general merchandise stores, where growth was able to offset losses in food store employment. Safeway's buyout of Carrs food stores has not seriously affected employment at the stores in Ketchikan and Juneau, but some of the locally owned grocery stores in Southeast had fewer employees in 1999. Construction was scheduled to begin on a Wal-Mart in Ketchikan in spring of 1999, but building permit and road access issues delayed the construction schedule.

Construction flat in 1999

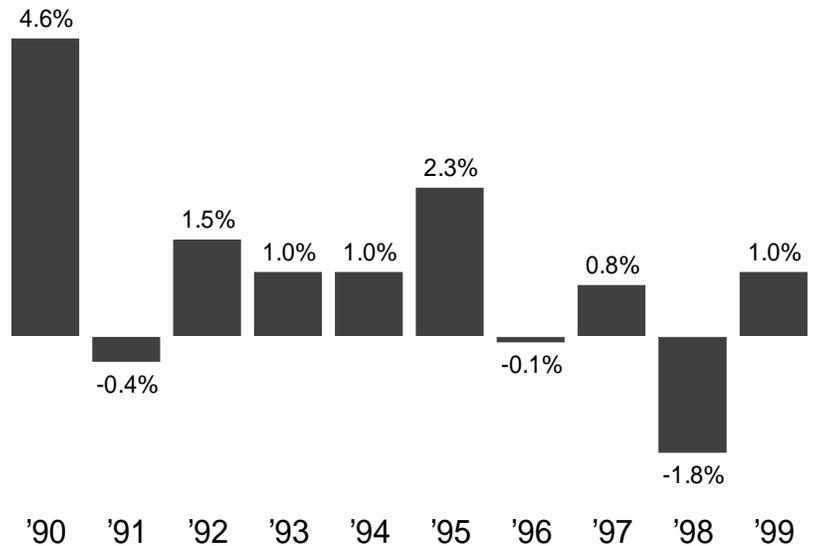
Although residential construction remained fairly flat in the Southeast region, projects like a new hotel and police station in Juneau, a wing addition at Ketchikan General Hospital, and infrastructure improvements in Wrangell kept employment above year-ago levels in the general building sector. These construction gains were offset by large losses in the heavy construction sector, which primarily includes road-building and marine construction contractors. Reduced logging activity also contributed to the losses in this sector.

Mining rounds out employment losses

The mining job loss in Southeast came from small gold mining companies that scaled back operations during the year. Gold prices remained low and likely affected the operation of the smaller mines in

Southeast Grows in 1999

Percent employment change from previous year



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

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Southeast 1998-1999

	1998	1999	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,300	35,650	350	1.0%
Goods-producing	4,900	5,000	100	2.0
Service-producing	30,400	30,650	250	0.8
Mining	350	300	-50	-14.3
Construction	1,600	1,600	0	0.0
Manufacturing	3,000	3,100	100	3.3
Durable Goods	1,350	1,450	100	7.4
Lumber & Wood Products	1,150	1,200	50	4.3
Nondurable Goods	1,650	1,650	0	0.0
Seafood Processing	1,300	1,350	50	3.8
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,900	2,850	-50	-1.7
Trade	6,400	6,450	50	0.8
Wholesale Trade	600	600	0	0.0
Retail Trade	5,800	5,850	50	0.9
Food Stores	1,350	1,300	-50	-3.7
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,350	1,200	-150	-11.1
Services & Misc.	7,550	7,900	350	4.6
Health Services	1,650	1,650	0	0.0
Government	12,200	12,250	50	0.4
Federal	1,800	1,750	-50	-2.8
State	5,250	5,300	50	1.0
Local	5,100	5,200	100	2.0

Benchmark: March 1999. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

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

Southeast. The Greens Creek mine, which continues to be the largest producer of silver in North America, maintained its 1998 employment level. Although Kennecott Corp., the operating partner of Greens Creek, recently considered bids for the mine, the company decided to retain its ownership.

GULF COAST: A year of marginal growth

Economies in the Gulf Coast region gained 150 jobs, growing 0.6% in 1999. (See Exhibit 10.) Growth was limited by the drop of 200 jobs in the seafood processing industry. During the peak fishing months, labor shortage calls echoed from processing sites adjacent to the fishing grounds of Prince William Sound, the Gulf of Alaska, and Cook Inlet. Job losses also occurred in air transportation when a commuter airline stopped its scheduled services. Unlike other areas, Cook Inlet's oil and gas employment held its ground because of the Alpine modular construction project. Other strong performers were retail and services with respective growth rates of 3.2% and 3.6%. Construction

employment increased, particularly in Seward and Kodiak.

Construction moved ahead

Commercial construction, worth over \$5 million, was Seward's strongest suit during the 1999 season. New hotel construction, additions and remodels, an office addition, a hardware store, and the rebuild of the high school swimming pool were among many projects in the city. In the Kenai/Soldotna area, construction of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska was the centerpiece among public projects. Homer got a new ferry terminal in 1999 and expanded its hospital. Cordova's construction scene was dominated by public works projects worth \$6.6 million. In Valdez, the largest projects were the Copper Valley Electric Association's generator facility and Petro Star's new office building. Building was also brisk in Kodiak. The Coast Guard added more housing and remodeled existing units. The \$40 million rocket launch facility, a Wal-Mart, and improvements to St. Herman Harbor were other projects on Kodiak's construction list. In all, 1999 summed up to a decent construction season in the Gulf Coast region.

10 Wage & Salary Employment Change — Gulf Coast 1998-1999

	1998	1999	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	27,100	27,250	150	0.6%
Goods-producing	6,400	6,150	-250	-3.9
Service-producing	20,700	21,150	450	2.2
Mining	1,100	1,100	0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,100	1,100	0	0.0
Construction	1,150	1,200	50	4.3
Manufacturing	4,100	3,850	-250	-6.1
Seafood Processing	3,100	2,900	-200	-6.5
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,450	2,400	-50	-2.0
Trade	5,300	5,500	200	3.8
Wholesale Trade	650	650	0	0.0
Retail Trade	4,650	4,800	150	3.2
Eating & Drinking Places	1,550	1,600	50	3.2
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	750	850	100	13.3
Services & Misc.	5,500	5,700	200	3.6
Health Services	1,050	1,100	50	4.8
Government	6,700	6,750	50	0.7
Federal	700	700	0	0.0
State	1,600	1,550	-50	-3.1
Local	4,400	4,450	50	1.1

*Benchmark: March 1999. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

New stores and the visitor industry helped promote growth

Retail got a big boost in employment from the opening of the Wal-Mart store in Kodiak. The visitor industry also helped. Most tourist hot spots reported good seasons. On the Kenai Peninsula, for example, popular vacation spots showed strong hikes in sales during the third quarter compared to last year. Taxable sales rose by 7.4% in Soldotna, 5.6% in Homer, 5.3% in Seward, and 2.1% in Kenai. The services sector also helped brighten this performance. Two hundred new jobs were created. Some of the new jobs were visitor-related but a good portion came from health care.

A mixed performance in other industries

Other industry performances were mixed. Real estate employment growth was positive. Transportation, however, suffered a big setback when Southcentral Air Inc. ceased to operate as a

commuter airline. Oil industry employment remained unchanged in the Cook Inlet region. The building of the modular units for the Alpine project helped the industry hold onto last year's employment level. Public sector employment hardly changed at all. Local government grew some, while state government employment contracted a bit. Significant changes, however, occurred in the Gulf Coast's manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing employment lost ground

Seafood processing, petroleum and natural gas based industries, and timber make up the bulk of the Gulf Coast region's manufacturing sector. In all three major categories, average employment moved down.

Timber employment in Kodiak did not regain the strength it enjoyed in 1997, despite the turnaround of Asian economies. Demand has not made a full recovery and production has been curtailed. Toward the end of the year, a Peninsula wood chip producer declared bankruptcy due to slack business, and Peninsula logging of beetle killed timber slowed in response to the closure.

For the Kenai Peninsula's fertilizer plant, 1999 was a difficult year. Unocal's urea (fertilizer) plant laid off workers in the spring to cut production costs. World markets remained soft for urea because of abundant supplies.

The seafood industry's problems took a turn in 1999. The main problem was not harvest volume or market price but recruitment of workers. The industry had difficulty finding seasonal help during the salmon and groundfish seasons. Kodiak was affected the most. In addition to the labor shortages, Peninsula seafood buyers consolidated processing into fewer plants, and some seafood processors did not operate at all during the 1999 season. The decline of 200 jobs in annual average employment can be attributed to both the labor shortages and reduced processing capacity.

In general, Gulf Coast fishers had a good season. The salmon harvests of Prince William Sound, Kodiak, and Cook Inlet surpassed last year's in volume and price. The salmon catch weighed in at

nearly 5 million pounds more and was valued at nearly 28 percent more than 1998's catch. Groundfish and halibut harvests were also profitable, and the season turned out to be satisfactory for all. Harvesters were paid good prices and there was plenty of fish, processing companies found good markets, and workers had good paychecks due to overtime.

SOUTHWEST ALASKA: Seafood processing drives Southwest employment down

The decline in seafood processing employment along the Aleutian chain, the Alaska Peninsula, and Bristol Bay was strong enough to cause employment losses for the entire Southwest region. In 1999, average annual employment fell by 200 jobs, or 1.1%. (See Exhibit 11.)

Other industries, however, created 150 new jobs, with services contributing most. Health care drove much of the demand for services. Employment in real estate rose because the regional housing authority increased staffing in 1999 to renovate, maintain, and build public housing in a variety of communities. Construction fared better than in past years. Outside of public construction, which included water and sewer systems and runways, a new airport terminal in Bethel, a new bunkhouse in Unalaska, and other projects were built.

The seafood industry, the region's largest employer,

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Southwest 1998-1999



	1998	1999	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,400	17,200	-200	-1.1%
Goods-producing	4,600	4,250	-350	-7.6
Service-producing	12,800	12,950	150	1.2
Seafood Processing	4,400	4,050	-350	-8.0
Government	5,700	5,650	-50	-0.9
Federal	350	350	0	0.0
State	500	500	0	0.0
Local	4,800	4,850	50	1.0

Benchmark: March 1999. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

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

dominated the private sector with 38 percent of wage and salary jobs. Most seafood processing workers in the region, however, were nonresidents. As a result, waning seafood employment hardly impacted the local economies. But harvest effort and proceeds benefited the economies of those communities where commercial fishing success is a crucial ingredient.

Higher seafood product prices help

Bering Sea crab fishers and Bristol Bay and Alaska Peninsula salmon fishers had a much better year than the year before. The snow crab harvest value was up 30 percent, king crab proceeds went up 46 percent, and salmon in the Southwest region yielded 50 percent more than in 1998. This was remarkable for the crab fishery, in particular, because catch quota reductions of 20 percent in snow crab and 37 percent in king crab reduced harvest volume.

For processors, the 1999 season was a difficult one. During the fishing season, labor shortages surfaced and were a factor in the loss of 350 jobs in average annual seafood processing. For the existing industry workforce, lots of overtime accrued. The end result was a good year for seafood processing workers and fishers.

NORTHERN ALASKA: Oil industry losses hit North Slope hard

Northern Alaska experienced sharp job losses in 1999. Practically all of the 1,200 job loss stemmed from the oil industry and its support

services. (See Exhibit 12.) Oil industry employment fell 16.8%, with 800 jobs lost predominantly in the oil field service category. These losses brought about a decline in trade and service sector jobs. Camp support facilities scaled back on employment in sync with the oil industry workforce.

Oil production on the North Slope in 1999 declined 8.7% from last year's annual averages. Production at Badami, a new field, was disappointing and it shut down for several months. Alpine, another new field, became one of the few construction projects that progressed on schedule. Toward the end of the year, work resumed on the Northstar project. The curtailment of oil patch development investment was felt most by exploration experts such as the drilling companies.

Employment in most settlements along the western coast hardly changed. The Nome area, however, suffered job losses caused by the closure of its gold mine. Employment increased at the Red Dog Mine, Alaska's giant zinc ore producer. The North Slope Borough, however, scaled back on employment. Tax revenues from oil properties were impacted by the production slowdown.

Statewide summary: Slow growth despite consolidation

Despite a year marked by consolidation in several sectors, Alaska's economy grew 2,600 jobs in 1999. That translated into a 0.9% rate of growth—the second slowest rate posted in the 1990s. Services, a solid tourism year, some retail expansion, and good years in the transportation, construction, and financial sectors contributed to employment growth. Meanwhile, an oil industry contraction, consolidation in the retail sector, and continued struggles in the seafood processing industry were major drags on employment growth. Accompanying the slower job growth were relatively low unemployment rates, although they were generally higher than the record lows seen in 1998.

A regional view shows the Mat-Su, Anchorage, and Fairbanks areas among the fastest growing, while Southeast and the Gulf Coast grew at slower rates. Southwest Alaska and Northern Alaska, particularly the North Slope, saw job declines in 1999.

12 Wage & Salary Employment Change — Northern 1998-1999

	1998	1999	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,850	14,650	-1,200	-7.6%
Goods-producing	5,900	5,000	-900	-15.3%
Service-producing	9,950	9,650	-300	-3.0%
Mining	5,200	4,350	-850	-16.3%
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,750	3,950	-800	-16.8%
Government	4,450	4,400	-50	-1.1%
Federal	150	150	0	0.0%
State	300	300	0	0.0%
Local	4,000	3,950	-50	-1.3%

Benchmark: March 1999. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Benchmark Revises Data

by
John Boucher
Labor Economist

1998 and 1999 nonagricultural wage and salary figures updated

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (AKDOL) revises the nonagricultural wage and salary employment data series each January in a procedure called *benchmarking*. This issue of *Alaska Economic Trends* features the revised employment estimates for 1998 and 1999. (See Exhibits 2-19.)

Monthly job estimates based on a sample of employers

AKDOL used current employment and payroll information from more than 1,400 of Alaska's 16,000 wage and salary employers to produce the monthly wage and salary employment estimates. Employers participating in the survey represent less than 10 percent of Alaska employers, but they represent nearly half of total nonagricultural employment. For example, the firms sampled in June 1999 accounted for 126,570 jobs out of the total nonagricultural employment of 290,100 (43.6%). These firms voluntarily participate in the U.S. Department of Labor's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The firms' data allow AKDOL economists to produce reliable and timely estimates on both the direction and the magnitude of movement in nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

Revised employment estimates incorporate latest UI tax data

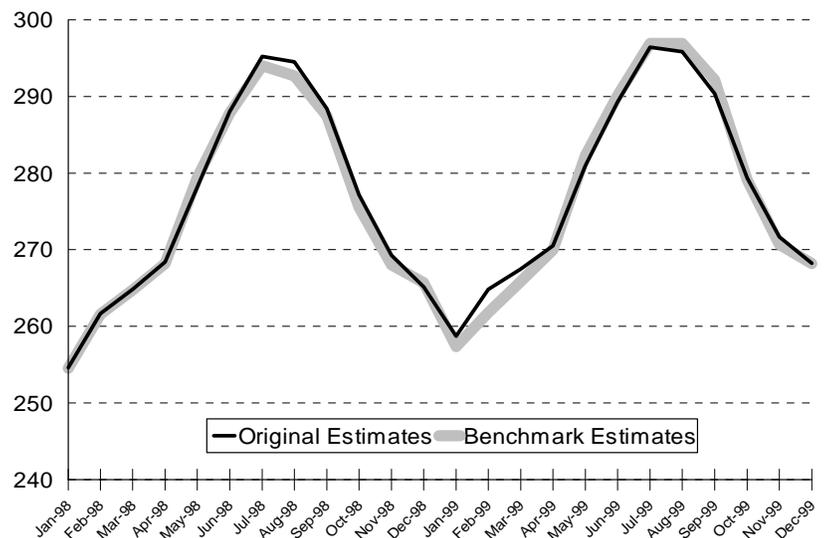
Quarterly Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax reports, referred to as the Quarterly Report of Employment and Wages or the ES-202 report, provide the most comprehensive count of nonagricultural wage and salary employment for

Alaska. However, ES-202 data are not immediately incorporated into the current employment estimates because there is a six- to nine-month lag in their collection, processing, and publication. (The ES-202 data are published annually in AKDOL's *Employment and Earnings Summary Report*.) The recently completed benchmark process, though, incorporates the most current ES-202 data available.

During the benchmark, revised estimates were calculated through December 1999, incorporating ES-202 data through June 1999. The remaining six months of 1999 were revised using an augmented CES sample, which incorporated employer information unavailable when the original estimates were produced.

Original Estimates on Target At 0.9% growth

Wage and Salary Employment (Thousands)



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

1999 employment growth pegged at 0.9%

The statewide wage and salary employment estimate tracked the trend of the benchmarked employment numbers with great accuracy during 1998 and 1999. The sample-generated estimates slightly overstated employment growth late in 1998 and early 1999, but near the end of the benchmarked period, the monthly employment estimates were slightly below the benchmark data. (See Exhibit 1.) On an annual average basis, the original estimates showed an employment increase of 0.9% from 1998 to 1999. The benchmarked estimates also showed employment growth of 0.9%.

Classification and location changes

As part of an ongoing collection of ES-202

employment data, one-third of Alaska's employers are surveyed annually to confirm the accuracy of their industry classification and business location. The survey results are incorporated into the AKDOL employment series at benchmark. During the incorporation, a small percentage of employers typically change their industry and/or location. This, in turn, can affect the direction and level of the published employment series. The 1999 benchmark altered several published employment series due to location and industry modifications. They were:

Statewide: Oil and Gas Extraction, Electric, Gas and Sanitary Services, Wholesale Trade, Business Services, Engineering and Management Services

Anchorage: Mining, Oil and Gas Extraction, Wholesale Trade, Business Services, Engineering and Management Services

Anchorage/Mat-Su: Mining, Wholesale Trade

2 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Alaska 1998

Exhibits 2-5 prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Government" includes employees of the public school systems and the University of Alaska. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Benchmark: March 1999

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	254,700	261,400	264,700	268,200	279,500	287,700	293,900	292,800	287,400	275,600	267,800	265,800	275,000
Goods-producing	31,600	35,800	36,300	36,100	37,700	42,100	48,400	47,200	43,600	38,700	34,300	31,300	38,600
Service-producing	223,100	225,600	228,400	232,100	241,800	245,600	245,500	245,600	243,800	236,900	233,500	234,500	236,400
Mining	10,100	10,500	10,300	10,500	10,600	10,900	11,200	11,400	11,300	11,300	10,800	11,000	10,800
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,700	9,100	8,800	9,000	9,000	9,200	9,500	9,700	9,600	9,700	9,400	9,600	9,300
Construction	10,200	10,400	10,800	11,700	13,500	15,300	16,400	16,700	16,100	15,100	13,100	11,700	13,400
Manufacturing	11,300	14,900	15,200	13,900	13,600	15,900	20,800	19,100	16,200	12,300	10,400	8,600	14,400
Durable Goods	1,700	1,900	2,300	2,700	2,900	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,000	2,500	2,800
Lumber/Wood Products	800	1,000	1,300	1,600	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,400	1,600
Nondurable Goods	9,600	13,000	12,900	11,200	10,700	12,700	17,600	15,900	13,000	9,100	7,400	6,100	11,600
Seafood Processing	6,900	10,400	10,200	8,600	8,000	10,000	14,900	13,200	10,300	6,600	4,800	3,500	9,000
Transportation/Comm/Util	23,100	23,400	23,900	24,400	26,300	27,100	27,600	28,300	27,400	25,800	24,700	24,300	25,500
Trucking & Warehousing	2,800	2,700	2,800	2,800	3,000	3,100	3,200	3,200	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,900	3,000
Water Transportation	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,700	2,000	2,200	2,300	2,500	2,200	1,900	1,700	1,500	1,900
Air Transportation	8,400	8,400	8,700	8,900	9,300	9,700	9,900	9,900	9,600	9,200	9,000	8,900	9,200
Communications	4,100	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,400	4,500	4,500	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,400
Elec/Gas/Sanitary Svc.	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,800	2,600
Trade	52,200	52,100	52,900	54,200	57,500	60,500	61,300	60,800	59,000	55,800	55,800	56,200	56,500
Wholesale Trade	8,400	8,500	8,600	8,600	9,000	9,200	9,700	9,700	9,400	8,900	8,800	8,800	9,000
Retail Trade	43,800	43,600	44,300	45,600	48,500	51,300	51,600	51,100	49,600	46,900	47,000	47,400	47,600
Gen. Merch & Apparel	8,700	8,300	8,400	8,500	8,900	9,300	9,200	9,100	9,100	9,200	9,500	9,900	9,000
Food Stores	6,900	6,800	6,900	6,900	7,100	7,500	7,400	7,400	7,300	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,100
Eating /Drinking Places	13,900	14,300	14,700	15,300	16,800	18,000	18,600	18,500	17,600	15,900	15,600	15,400	16,200
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	12,000	11,900	12,100	12,200	12,500	12,800	13,000	13,100	12,800	12,800	12,400	12,600	12,500
Services & Misc.	63,000	63,900	65,000	66,300	69,300	72,600	73,100	73,200	70,900	67,600	66,200	66,700	68,200
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,800	5,000	5,200	5,500	7,100	8,900	9,600	9,400	8,300	6,300	5,300	5,400	6,700
Business Services	8,000	8,100	8,200	8,400	8,600	9,000	9,300	9,300	8,900	8,600	8,500	8,500	8,600
Health Services	14,800	14,800	14,900	14,900	15,100	15,200	15,000	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,300	15,000
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,600
Social Services	7,300	7,300	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,300	7,200	7,300	7,500	7,400	7,400	7,500	7,400
Engineering & Mgt. Svc.	7,300	7,300	7,500	7,800	7,900	8,000	8,000	8,100	7,900	8,000	7,800	7,600	7,800
Government	72,800	74,300	74,500	75,000	76,200	72,600	70,500	70,200	73,700	74,900	74,400	74,700	73,700
Federal	16,800	16,800	16,800	16,900	17,600	17,900	17,900	17,900	17,600	16,700	16,600	16,600	17,200
State	20,700	21,600	21,700	22,100	22,300	20,800	21,200	20,400	21,800	22,000	21,900	22,000	21,500
Local	35,300	35,900	36,000	36,000	36,300	33,900	31,400	31,900	34,300	36,200	35,900	36,100	34,900

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

Southeast: Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, Services

Fairbanks and Interior: Services

contact AKDOL's Research and Analysis Section at (907) 465-4500.

Series break warranted in Anchorage Oil and Gas Extraction

Due to the size of the firms involved in an industry or area code change, an employment series change occasionally is so dramatic as to alter it permanently. In the case of the Anchorage Oil and Gas Extraction series, so large a change occurred as to cause a break in the time series. Due to the magnitude of the change, data published prior to 1998 cannot be considered equivalent to data published after January 1998.

For a detailed description of the effects industry and location code changes had on these series,

Hours and earnings statistics also revised

Employers also provide the data used to estimate hours and earnings statistics. During the benchmark, these estimates are adjusted to reflect the revised level of employment. When the employment data are benchmarked, the hours and earnings data are reviewed to determine how employment changes affected the hours and earnings estimates. (See Exhibit 20.) Usually, the hours and earnings data change either due to the benchmarking of employment or to the addition of data from new firms to augment the existing hours and earnings sample. (Hours and earnings data are not reported in the quarterly ES-202 report; therefore, estimates of average weekly hours and earnings data are entirely sample-based.)

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Alaska 1999

3

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	257,500	261,600	266,000	270,100	281,600	290,200	297,000	297,000	292,200	279,000	270,700	268,400	277,600
Goods-producing	31,500	33,700	35,200	34,500	36,400	39,400	46,900	46,900	43,300	37,200	31,800	29,600	37,200
Service-producing	226,000	227,900	230,800	235,600	245,200	250,800	250,100	250,100	248,900	241,800	238,900	238,800	240,400
Mining	10,000	9,900	10,000	9,600	9,700	9,500	9,300	9,200	9,300	9,400	9,000	9,100	9,500
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,200	8,200	7,800	7,600	7,500	7,700	7,800	7,600	7,700	8,000
Construction	10,700	10,200	11,000	12,200	13,800	15,600	16,800	17,400	16,600	15,500	13,600	12,200	13,800
Manufacturing	10,800	13,600	14,200	12,700	12,900	14,300	20,800	20,300	17,400	12,300	9,200	8,300	13,900
Durable Goods	1,800	2,100	2,500	2,900	3,200	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,200	2,900	2,400	2,900
Lumber/Wood Products	800	1,100	1,400	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,000	2,000	1,800	1,300	1,700
Nondurable Goods	9,000	11,500	11,700	9,800	9,700	11,000	17,500	17,000	14,100	9,100	6,300	5,900	11,100
Seafood Processing	6,500	9,000	9,200	7,200	7,100	8,400	14,800	14,400	11,500	6,500	3,700	3,200	8,500
Transportation/Comm/Util	23,600	23,800	24,000	24,500	26,600	28,200	28,500	28,900	28,200	26,500	25,500	25,100	26,100
Trucking & Warehousing	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,800	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,900
Water Transportation	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,600	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,200	1,900	1,700	1,500	1,900
Air Transportation	8,900	8,800	8,800	9,100	9,500	10,000	10,100	10,100	9,900	9,500	9,300	9,200	9,400
Communications	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,400	5,100	5,100	5,100	5,200	5,100	5,100	5,100	4,800
Elec/Gas/Sanitary Svc.	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,800	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,700
Trade	52,800	52,600	53,400	55,000	57,800	61,500	62,100	61,900	60,000	57,000	56,900	56,800	57,300
Wholesale Trade	8,500	8,500	8,600	8,700	8,900	9,400	9,700	9,600	9,300	8,900	8,900	8,800	9,000
Retail Trade	44,300	44,100	44,800	46,300	48,900	52,100	52,400	52,300	50,700	48,100	48,000	48,000	48,300
Gen. Merch & Apparel	8,600	8,500	8,600	8,800	9,100	9,600	9,500	9,700	9,800	9,900	10,200	10,400	9,400
Food Stores	6,700	6,700	6,800	6,800	6,800	7,200	7,200	7,200	7,000	6,800	6,800	6,700	6,900
Eating/Drinking Places	14,600	14,800	15,000	15,700	17,000	18,500	18,900	18,800	18,000	16,300	15,900	15,800	16,600
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	12,400	12,300	12,400	12,500	12,800	13,200	13,200	13,300	13,000	13,000	12,700	12,800	12,800
Services & Misc.	65,000	65,300	66,400	68,000	71,600	75,500	76,100	76,000	73,800	70,300	69,000	69,400	70,500
Hotels & Lodging Places	5,100	5,100	5,300	5,900	7,500	9,400	9,900	9,700	8,500	6,700	5,700	5,800	7,100
Business Services	7,900	7,800	8,000	8,300	8,700	9,200	9,400	9,600	9,400	9,000	8,800	8,800	8,700
Health Services	15,200	15,200	15,400	15,300	15,500	15,700	15,800	15,800	15,800	15,800	15,900	16,100	15,600
Legal Services	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,700
Social Services	7,400	7,500	7,600	7,800	8,000	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,900	7,800	7,900	8,000	7,800
Engineering & Mgt. Svc.	7,500	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,900	8,300	8,200	8,200	8,100	7,900	7,800	7,700	7,900
Government	72,200	73,900	74,600	75,600	76,400	72,400	70,200	70,000	73,900	75,000	74,800	74,700	73,600
Federal	16,200	16,300	16,300	16,500	17,100	17,500	17,500	17,400	17,200	16,600	16,400	16,500	16,800
State	21,200	21,900	22,200	22,400	22,400	21,100	21,000	20,400	21,900	22,300	22,300	22,000	21,800
Local	34,800	35,700	36,100	36,700	36,900	33,800	31,700	32,200	34,800	36,100	36,100	36,200	35,100

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

Unemployment rises to 6.4% in 1999

Alaska's statewide jobless rate was 6.4% in 1999, a six-tenths of a percentage point increase from the record low 5.8% rate recorded in 1998. (See Exhibit 21.) While unemployment increased compared to 1998, 1999's annual unemployment rate was the second-lowest recorded annual rate in the last twenty years. Besides being a near record-setting rate, Alaska's labor market extended the string of unemployment rates below eight

percent to six straight years.

Alaska's unemployment rate increased in 1999 primarily due to the layoffs that occurred in Alaska's oil and gas sector. Unemployment claims data for 1999 indicate UI claims by persons whose last work was in the oil and gas industry approximately doubled from 1998 levels. UI claims in the services and trade sectors also increased in 1999, but nowhere near the magnitude of the oil and gas industry.

4 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Municipality of Anchorage 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	122,000	123,600	124,600	126,400	130,100	132,200	131,900	132,000	131,700	130,300	129,500	129,800	128,700
Goods-producing	10,100	10,400	10,500	10,800	12,000	13,000	13,600	13,900	13,400	12,900	11,800	11,200	12,000
Service-producing	111,900	113,200	114,100	115,600	118,100	119,200	118,300	118,100	118,300	117,400	117,700	118,600	116,700
Mining	2,800	2,900	3,000	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,200	3,100	3,000	2,900	3,000	3,000
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,700	2,800	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,900	2,900
Construction	5,500	5,600	5,600	5,900	7,000	7,900	8,300	8,500	8,200	7,800	6,900	6,300	7,000
Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,100	2,000	1,900	2,000
Transportation/Comm/Util	12,300	12,500	12,700	12,900	13,400	13,800	13,700	14,000	13,700	13,400	13,300	13,200	13,200
Air Transportation	5,500	5,400	5,600	5,700	5,800	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,900	5,900	5,800	5,800
Communications	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600
Trade	29,500	29,500	29,900	30,100	31,000	31,800	32,000	31,900	31,800	31,200	31,600	31,900	31,000
Wholesale Trade	6,100	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,600	6,500	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Retail Trade	23,400	23,300	23,700	23,800	24,600	25,300	25,400	25,300	25,300	24,800	25,200	25,500	24,600
Gen. Merch & Apparel	4,400	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,700	4,800	5,100	5,300	4,600
Food Stores	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	2,900	3,000	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900
Eating/Drinking Places	8,100	8,200	8,400	8,400	8,900	9,200	9,400	9,300	9,400	8,900	8,900	8,800	8,800
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	7,200	7,200	7,300	7,500	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,600	7,700	7,600	7,700	7,500
Services & Misc.	34,500	35,200	35,500	36,100	36,700	37,500	37,200	37,100	36,600	36,200	36,200	36,600	36,300
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,700	3,000	3,100	3,000	2,800	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,700
Business Services	5,700	5,900	5,900	6,100	6,200	6,400	6,600	6,500	6,300	6,100	6,100	6,200	6,200
Health Services	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,800	7,800	7,900	7,800	7,800	7,800	7,900	7,900	8,000	7,800
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Social Services	3,300	3,300	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,500	3,700	3,500
Engineering & Mgt. Svc.	5,300	5,300	5,500	5,700	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,700	5,600	5,800	5,700	5,500	5,600
Government	28,400	28,800	28,700	29,000	29,400	28,400	27,700	27,400	28,600	28,900	29,000	29,200	28,600
Federal	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900	10,300	10,300	10,200	10,200	10,100	9,800	9,900	10,000	10,000
State	8,100	8,300	8,300	8,500	8,600	8,000	8,200	7,900	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,400
Local	10,400	10,600	10,500	10,600	10,500	10,100	9,300	9,300	9,800	10,400	10,400	10,500	10,200

6 Anchorage/Mat-Su 1998

Benchmark 1999. Exhibits 6-19 prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of the public school systems and the University of Alaska.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	132,900	134,450	136,050	137,950	142,450	145,050	144,700	145,150	144,600	142,650	141,300	141,550	140,750
Goods-producing	10,900	11,150	11,350	11,800	13,100	14,350	15,050	15,400	14,950	14,350	13,050	12,350	13,150
Service-producing	122,000	123,300	124,700	126,150	129,350	130,700	129,650	129,750	129,650	128,300	128,250	129,200	127,600
Mining	2,800	2,950	3,000	2,950	3,050	3,050	3,150	3,250	3,150	3,050	2,950	3,050	3,050
Construction	6,200	6,250	6,300	6,750	7,900	9,000	9,550	9,800	9,550	9,100	8,000	7,300	8,000
Manufacturing	1,900	1,950	2,050	2,100	2,150	2,300	2,350	2,350	2,250	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,150
Transportation/Comm/Util	13,300	13,450	13,650	14,000	14,550	14,800	14,700	15,100	14,900	14,500	14,300	14,200	14,300
Trade	32,200	32,200	32,700	32,850	33,950	34,900	35,300	35,200	35,050	34,200	34,550	34,850	34,000
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	7,700	7,700	7,800	7,950	8,050	8,150	8,250	8,200	8,100	8,200	8,100	8,150	8,050
Services & Misc.	37,300	38,000	38,500	39,150	40,100	41,050	40,800	40,800	40,050	39,350	39,200	39,650	39,500
Government	31,500	31,950	32,050	32,200	32,700	31,800	30,600	30,450	31,550	32,050	32,100	32,350	31,800
Federal	10,050	10,050	10,050	10,050	10,400	10,450	10,350	10,350	10,250	9,950	10,000	10,150	10,200
State	8,850	9,150	9,200	9,350	9,500	8,800	9,000	8,650	9,550	9,550	9,500	9,500	9,200
Local	12,600	12,750	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,550	11,250	11,450	11,750	12,550	12,600	12,700	12,400

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

Even though job losses in oil and gas and related industries significantly curtailed job growth, Alaska's wage and salary job count still grew in 1999. This increased the number of job opportunities for individuals laid off in the oil industry as well as for other unemployed persons. While the number of available jobs increased, net migration to Alaska continued to decline. (Net migration is estimated by taking the number of individuals entering the state and subtracting the number of individuals

leaving the state.) This meant that the net number of adults moving to Alaska who could fill the additional wage and salary jobs was relatively small. The negative rate of net migration meant that employers had to increasingly rely upon the state's resident labor force to fill additional wage and salary jobs. This trend was an important factor in keeping Alaska's overall unemployment rate relatively low despite the troubles that resulted from oil and gas industry layoffs.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Municipality of Anchorage 1999 5

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	125,100	125,300	126,600	128,600	132,100	135,100	135,100	134,800	134,700	133,100	132,300	132,200	131,300
Goods-producing	10,700	10,300	10,800	11,300	12,200	13,000	13,600	13,800	13,400	12,700	11,700	11,100	12,100
Service-producing	114,400	115,000	115,800	117,300	119,900	122,100	121,500	121,000	121,300	120,400	120,600	121,100	119,200
Mining	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,700
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,600
Construction	5,900	5,500	5,900	6,500	7,300	8,100	8,700	9,000	8,600	8,100	7,100	6,600	7,300
Manufacturing	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,100	2,000	2,100
Transportation/Comm/Util	12,800	12,800	12,900	13,000	13,500	14,500	14,600	14,600	14,600	14,300	14,100	13,900	13,800
Air Transportation	5,800	5,700	5,700	5,800	5,900	6,000	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,000	5,900	5,900
Communications	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,100
Trade	30,000	29,800	30,300	30,600	31,200	32,300	32,500	32,300	32,000	31,500	31,900	31,900	31,400
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,300	6,400	6,600	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,400	6,400	6,300	6,400
Retail Trade	23,800	23,600	24,000	24,300	24,800	25,700	25,800	25,700	25,500	25,100	25,500	25,600	25,000
Gen. Merch & Apparel	4,500	4,300	4,400	4,400	4,600	4,800	4,700	4,700	4,800	4,900	5,200	5,400	4,700
Food Stores	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,800
Eating/Drinking Places	8,400	8,500	8,600	8,800	9,000	9,400	9,400	9,400	9,500	9,100	9,000	8,900	9,000
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,900	7,800	7,800	7,700	7,800	7,700	7,700	7,700
Services & Misc.	35,800	35,800	36,100	36,800	38,000	39,400	39,400	39,300	38,600	38,100	38,000	38,500	37,800
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,800	3,000	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,100	2,800	2,700	2,900	2,900
Business Services	5,700	5,600	5,700	5,900	6,200	6,600	6,700	6,700	6,500	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,200
Health Services	7,900	7,900	8,000	8,100	8,200	8,300	8,300	8,200	8,200	8,300	8,200	8,400	8,200
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Social Services	3,600	3,700	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,900	3,800
Engineering & Mgt. Svc.	5,600	5,600	5,700	5,600	5,900	6,100	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,200	6,100	6,000	5,900
Government	28,200	29,000	28,900	29,200	29,500	28,000	27,200	27,000	28,400	28,700	28,900	29,100	28,500
Federal	9,700	9,800	9,700	9,600	9,900	10,000	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,800	9,700	9,900	9,800
State	8,400	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,800	8,300	8,200	8,100	8,700	8,900	9,000	8,900	8,600
Local	10,100	10,500	10,500	10,900	10,800	9,700	9,100	9,000	9,800	10,000	10,200	10,300	10,100

Anchorage/Mat-Su 1999 7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	136,250	136,550	138,150	140,350	144,550	148,200	148,050	148,700	148,050	146,000	144,800	144,650	143,700
Goods-producing	11,550	11,150	11,800	12,300	13,350	14,400	15,000	15,400	14,850	14,250	13,050	12,350	13,300
Service-producing	124,700	125,400	126,350	128,050	131,200	133,800	133,050	133,300	133,200	131,750	131,750	132,300	130,400
Mining	2,900	2,900	2,950	2,800	2,800	2,750	2,650	2,650	2,600	2,550	2,500	2,500	2,700
Construction	6,700	6,300	6,700	7,350	8,300	9,350	9,950	10,350	9,900	9,400	8,350	7,750	8,350
Manufacturing	1,950	1,950	2,150	2,150	2,250	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,350	2,300	2,200	2,100	2,200
Transportation/Comm/Util	13,850	13,800	13,900	14,050	14,550	15,450	15,600	15,800	15,700	15,400	15,150	14,950	14,850
Trade	32,900	32,750	33,200	33,700	34,400	35,700	35,950	36,000	35,800	35,050	35,300	35,350	34,700
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	8,050	8,050	8,100	8,150	8,250	8,400	8,350	8,350	8,200	8,250	8,200	8,250	8,200
Services & Misc.	38,500	38,650	39,000	39,700	41,250	43,000	43,000	43,050	42,150	41,300	41,050	41,600	41,000
Government	31,400	32,150	32,150	32,450	32,750	31,250	30,150	30,100	31,350	31,750	32,050	32,150	31,650
Federal	9,850	9,900	9,850	9,750	10,000	10,100	10,100	10,050	10,000	9,900	9,850	10,000	9,950
State	9,250	9,500	9,550	9,600	9,650	9,100	9,000	8,800	9,600	9,750	9,800	9,700	9,450
Local	12,300	12,750	12,750	13,100	13,100	12,050	11,050	11,250	11,750	12,100	12,400	12,450	12,250

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

8 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Fairbanks North Star Borough 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	30,450	31,150	31,450	31,800	33,400	34,150	35,000	34,650	34,450	33,600	32,900	32,500	32,950
Goods-producing	2,550	2,550	2,450	2,700	3,100	3,750	4,150	4,250	4,150	3,850	3,250	2,950	3,300
Service-producing	27,900	28,600	29,000	29,100	30,300	30,400	30,850	30,400	30,300	29,750	29,650	29,550	29,650
Mining	900	900	750	700	750	900	1,000	950	1,000	1,100	1,000	1,000	900
Construction	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,450	1,750	2,200	2,500	2,650	2,500	2,150	1,650	1,400	1,800
Manufacturing	500	500	500	550	600	650	650	650	650	600	600	550	600
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,650	2,700	2,800	2,800	3,150	3,200	3,300	3,400	3,250	2,950	2,900	2,850	3,000
Trucking & Warehousing	550	600	600	600	650	700	700	700	700	650	650	650	650
Air Transportation	650	650	650	700	700	750	800	800	750	750	750	750	750
Communications	450	400	450	450	450	450	450	500	500	450	450	450	450
Trade	6,550	6,550	6,650	6,700	6,950	7,200	7,200	7,000	7,000	6,900	7,000	6,950	6,900
Wholesale Trade	800	850	850	850	900	900	900	900	900	850	900	800	850
Retail Trade	5,750	5,700	5,800	5,850	6,050	6,300	6,300	6,100	6,100	6,050	6,100	6,150	6,000
Gen. Merch & Apparel	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,250	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,200
Food Stores	750	750	750	700	750	750	750	750	750	700	750	750	750
Eating/Drinking Places	1,850	1,900	2,050	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,200	2,250	2,200	2,150	2,150	2,100
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Services & Misc.	7,400	7,550	7,700	7,800	8,200	8,800	9,050	9,000	8,550	8,150	7,850	7,900	8,150
Hotels & Lodging Places	600	650	700	700	900	1,200	1,300	1,150	1,000	800	600	600	850
Health Services	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,900	1,850
Government	10,250	10,750	10,800	10,750	10,900	10,050	10,150	9,850	10,400	10,650	10,800	10,750	10,500
Federal	3,250	3,300	3,300	3,250	3,350	3,400	3,550	3,500	3,400	3,250	3,250	3,200	3,350
State	4,150	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,100	4,200	3,850	4,250	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,400
Local	2,850	2,850	2,900	2,900	2,950	2,550	2,400	2,500	2,750	2,900	3,000	3,000	2,800

Benchmark 1999. Exhibits 6-19 prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska. Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

10 Interior 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	34,900	35,750	36,150	37,150	39,850	41,300	42,100	41,650	40,950	38,950	37,450	37,050	38,600
Goods-producing	2,850	2,950	2,850	3,050	3,500	4,150	4,500	4,650	4,500	4,200	3,550	3,300	3,650
Service-producing	32,050	32,800	33,300	34,100	36,350	37,150	37,600	37,000	36,450	34,750	33,900	33,750	34,950
Mining	1,150	1,150	950	950	1,000	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,150
Construction	1,200	1,250	1,350	1,500	1,850	2,300	2,600	2,750	2,600	2,250	1,750	1,500	1,900
Manufacturing	500	550	550	600	650	700	700	700	700	650	600	600	650
Transportation/Comm/Util	3,050	3,150	3,300	3,350	3,900	4,100	4,200	4,350	4,100	3,800	3,300	3,250	3,650
Trade	7,150	7,100	7,250	7,700	8,300	9,050	9,150	8,850	8,400	7,700	7,650	7,550	8,000
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Services & Misc.	8,300	8,450	8,550	8,800	9,500	10,350	10,650	10,550	10,000	9,150	8,750	8,750	9,300
Hotels & Lodging Places	700	750	800	800	1,350	1,850	1,950	1,850	1,550	1,000	750	700	1,150
Government	12,450	13,000	13,100	13,150	13,450	12,450	12,400	12,050	12,750	12,950	13,050	13,050	12,800
Federal	3,850	3,850	3,850	3,900	4,050	4,100	4,250	4,200	4,100	3,800	3,750	3,700	3,950
State	4,350	4,800	4,850	4,850	4,900	4,400	4,550	4,150	4,500	4,750	4,800	4,800	4,650
Local	4,250	4,350	4,400	4,400	4,500	3,950	3,600	3,700	4,150	4,400	4,500	4,550	4,250

12 Northern 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	15,450	15,750	15,750	16,000	15,650	15,900	16,100	16,250	16,250	16,000	15,500	15,700	15,850
Goods-producing	5,550	5,850	5,850	5,950	5,600	5,800	6,100	6,350	6,100	6,000	5,750	5,850	5,900
Service-producing	9,900	9,900	9,900	10,050	10,050	10,100	10,000	9,900	10,150	10,000	9,750	9,850	9,950
Mining	4,850	5,050	5,000	5,100	5,050	5,200	5,350	5,500	5,400	5,400	5,200	5,350	5,200
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,400	4,600	4,550	4,700	4,600	4,700	4,900	5,050	4,900	4,950	4,800	4,900	4,750
Government	4,550	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,450	4,300	4,250	4,550	4,550	4,400	4,400	4,450
Federal	150	150	200	150	150	200	200	200	200	150	150	150	150
State	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Local	4,100	4,050	4,050	4,100	4,100	3,950	3,800	3,750	4,050	4,100	3,950	3,950	4,000

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment **9**

Fairbanks North Star Borough 1999

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	30,800	31,050	31,600	32,800	34,300	34,600	35,400	35,150	34,850	34,100	33,200	33,150	33,400
Goods-producing	2,400	2,300	2,450	2,700	3,250	3,600	4,000	4,100	4,000	3,700	3,050	2,800	3,200
Service-producing	28,400	28,750	29,150	30,100	31,050	31,000	31,400	31,050	30,850	30,400	30,150	30,350	30,200
Mining	650	650	700	700	750	850	950	950	1,000	1,000	850	800	800
Construction	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,450	1,900	2,150	2,400	2,500	2,350	2,100	1,600	1,400	1,800
Manufacturing	550	550	550	550	600	600	650	650	650	600	600	600	600
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,850	2,900	2,950	2,950	3,250	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,300	2,950	2,900	2,900	3,100
Trucking & Warehousing	600	600	550	600	650	700	700	650	650	550	550	550	600
Air Transportation	800	850	850	850	900	950	950	1,000	950	900	900	900	900
Communications	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	400	400	400	450
Trade	6,350	6,300	6,400	6,700	6,950	7,250	7,300	7,200	7,150	7,100	7,100	7,150	6,900
Wholesale Trade	750	750	750	750	750	800	850	850	800	800	800	800	800
Retail Trade	5,600	5,550	5,650	5,950	6,200	6,450	6,450	6,350	6,350	6,300	6,300	6,350	6,150
Gen. Merch & Apparel	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,200
Food Stores	700	700	700	700	700	750	750	750	700	750	750	750	750
Eating/Drinking Places	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,250	2,350	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,250	2,200	2,250	2,200
Finance/Insur/Real Estate	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,200
Services & Misc.	7,700	7,750	7,950	8,250	8,650	9,000	9,250	9,150	8,700	8,300	8,050	8,150	8,400
Hotels & Lodging Places	600	600	650	700	950	1,250	1,300	1,200	950	750	600	600	850
Health Services	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	2,000	2,000	1,950
Government	10,400	10,700	10,750	11,050	11,050	10,150	10,100	9,900	10,400	10,800	10,900	10,950	10,600
Federal	3,150	3,200	3,200	3,250	3,350	3,450	3,450	3,400	3,350	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,300
State	4,200	4,450	4,500	4,650	4,600	4,050	4,100	3,900	4,250	4,550	4,600	4,650	4,400
Local	3,050	3,050	3,050	3,150	3,100	2,650	2,550	2,600	2,800	3,000	3,050	3,050	2,950

Interior 1999 **11**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	35,100	35,300	36,050	37,750	40,700	41,900	42,650	42,100	41,500	39,600	38,050	37,600	39,050
Goods-producing	2,650	2,500	2,700	2,900	3,600	4,050	4,400	4,450	4,350	4,050	3,450	3,050	3,500
Service-producing	32,450	32,800	33,350	34,850	37,100	37,850	38,250	37,650	37,150	35,550	34,600	34,550	35,500
Mining	850	800	900	850	900	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,000	950	1,000
Construction	1,250	1,150	1,250	1,500	2,050	2,350	2,600	2,650	2,500	2,250	1,800	1,500	1,900
Manufacturing	550	550	550	550	650	650	700	700	700	650	650	600	650
Transportation/Comm/Util	3,250	3,350	3,400	3,500	4,050	4,300	4,450	4,450	4,150	3,800	3,350	3,300	3,800
Trade	6,900	6,850	6,950	7,500	8,150	9,050	9,300	9,100	8,600	7,950	7,750	7,750	8,000
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,200	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,300
Services & Misc.	8,550	8,600	8,800	9,250	10,050	10,550	10,900	10,700	10,150	9,300	8,950	9,050	9,550
Hotels & Lodging Places	700	700	750	850	1,400	1,850	1,950	1,900	1,500	950	750	700	1,150
Government	12,550	12,850	13,000	13,400	13,600	12,650	12,300	12,050	12,850	13,150	13,250	13,150	12,900
Federal	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,850	4,050	4,100	4,150	4,050	4,000	3,800	3,750	3,700	3,900
State	4,400	4,650	4,750	4,900	4,900	4,400	4,400	4,200	4,550	4,800	4,850	4,850	4,650
Local	4,450	4,500	4,550	4,650	4,650	4,150	3,750	3,800	4,300	4,550	4,650	4,600	4,400

Northern 1999 **13**

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

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

14 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Southeast 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	30,850	31,600	32,800	34,000	36,450	37,500	39,600	40,300	38,450	35,200	33,850	33,000	35,300
Goods-producing	2,950	3,550	4,100	4,700	4,950	5,200	6,750	7,100	6,100	5,150	4,550	3,950	4,900
Service-producing	27,900	28,050	28,700	29,300	31,500	32,300	32,850	33,200	32,350	30,050	29,300	29,050	30,400
Mining	300	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Construction	1,200	1,250	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,850	1,850	1,800	1,700	1,650	1,500	1,400	1,600
Manufacturing	1,450	1,950	2,350	2,750	2,800	3,000	4,550	4,950	4,050	3,150	2,700	2,200	3,000
Durable Goods	600	850	1,100	1,450	1,450	1,550	1,550	1,600	1,650	1,700	1,600	1,250	1,350
Lumber/Wood Products	400	650	950	1,200	1,200	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,400	1,000	1,150
Nondurable Goods	850	1,100	1,250	1,300	1,350	1,450	3,000	3,350	2,400	1,450	1,100	950	1,650
Seafood Processing	450	700	850	950	1,000	1,100	2,700	3,050	2,100	1,150	800	650	1,300
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,350	2,300	2,450	2,600	3,200	3,350	3,700	3,800	3,500	2,700	2,550	2,400	2,900
Trade	5,600	5,550	5,700	6,000	6,850	7,400	7,450	7,400	6,850	6,050	5,900	5,950	6,400
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	600	600	650	700	650	600	600	550	550	600
Retail Trade	5,050	5,000	5,150	5,400	6,250	6,750	6,750	6,750	6,250	5,450	5,350	5,400	5,800
Food Stores	1,300	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,350	1,350
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,250	1,350
Services & Misc.	6,550	6,600	6,800	7,050	7,750	8,400	8,550	8,750	8,250	7,450	7,150	7,150	7,550
Health Services	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,650
Government	12,050	12,250	12,350	12,350	12,400	11,750	11,750	11,850	12,400	12,500	12,400	12,300	12,200
Federal	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,750	1,900	1,950	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,800	1,700	1,650	1,800
State	5,150	5,250	5,300	5,400	5,300	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,350	5,300	5,300	5,300	5,250
Local	5,200	5,300	5,350	5,200	5,200	4,600	4,550	4,650	5,150	5,400	5,400	5,350	5,100

16 Gulf Coast 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	23,900	24,550	24,900	25,600	27,750	30,350	31,800	31,700	29,550	26,250	24,600	24,100	27,100
Goods-producing	5,150	5,600	5,600	5,600	6,250	7,700	9,250	9,100	7,600	5,650	4,750	4,350	6,400
Service-producing	18,750	18,950	19,300	20,000	21,500	22,650	22,550	22,600	21,950	20,600	19,850	19,750	20,700
Mining	1,050	1,100	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,050	1,050	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100
Construction	800	750	800	1,000	1,300	1,450	1,500	1,500	1,450	1,350	1,150	1,000	1,150
Manufacturing	3,300	3,750	3,800	3,450	3,800	5,050	6,650	6,450	5,000	3,100	2,500	2,250	4,100
Seafood Processing	2,350	2,800	2,850	2,500	2,850	4,050	5,600	5,400	4,000	2,100	1,550	1,350	3,100
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,200	2,200	2,250	2,350	2,500	2,650	2,700	2,750	2,600	2,500	2,300	2,200	2,450
Trade	4,450	4,450	4,600	4,900	5,450	6,000	6,400	6,300	5,750	5,100	4,950	5,000	5,300
Wholesale Trade	500	500	550	550	600	650	900	900	800	650	600	600	650
Retail Trade	3,950	3,950	4,050	4,350	4,850	5,350	5,500	5,400	4,950	4,450	4,350	4,400	4,650
Eating /Drinking Places	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,400	1,700	1,900	2,050	2,000	1,750	1,450	1,350	1,350	1,550
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	700	700	700	750	750	800	800	850	800	800	750	800	750
Services & Misc.	4,850	4,900	5,000	5,150	5,750	6,350	6,400	6,300	5,950	5,400	5,100	5,050	5,500
Health Services	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,050
Government	6,550	6,700	6,750	6,850	7,050	6,850	6,250	6,400	6,850	6,800	6,750	6,700	6,700
Federal	650	650	650	700	750	800	800	800	800	650	650	600	700
State	1,500	1,550	1,600	1,650	1,750	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,550	1,600
Local	4,400	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,550	4,450	3,850	4,000	4,400	4,550	4,500	4,550	4,400

Benchmark 1999. Exhibits 6-19 prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of the public school systems and the University of Alaska. Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

18 Southwest 1998

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

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

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment **15** Southeast 1999

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	31,100	31,700	32,500	34,300	37,150	38,650	40,150	40,350	39,600	35,550	33,950	32,850	35,650
Goods-producing	3,100	3,450	3,850	4,600	5,000	5,450	6,900	7,250	6,750	5,200	4,500	3,800	5,000
Service-producing	28,000	28,250	28,650	29,700	32,150	33,200	33,250	33,100	32,850	30,350	29,450	29,050	30,650
Mining	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Construction	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,550	1,750	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,750	1,700	1,550	1,400	1,600
Manufacturing	1,500	1,950	2,250	2,750	2,950	3,250	4,750	5,100	4,700	3,200	2,650	2,100	3,100
Durable Goods	750	1,000	1,200	1,550	1,700	1,700	1,750	1,750	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,150	1,450
Lumber/Wood Products	500	750	950	1,300	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,550	1,500	1,450	1,350	900	1,200
Nondurable Goods	750	950	1,050	1,200	1,250	1,550	3,000	3,350	3,000	1,500	1,050	950	1,650
Seafood Processing	500	700	750	900	950	1,250	2,700	3,050	2,700	1,200	800	650	1,350
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,250	2,150	2,250	2,450	3,300	3,550	3,550	3,600	3,450	2,650	2,450	2,400	2,850
Trade	5,500	5,600	5,650	6,000	6,900	7,500	7,600	7,500	6,950	6,100	6,000	5,950	6,450
Wholesale Trade	550	550	600	550	600	650	700	700	650	600	600	550	600
Retail Trade	4,950	5,050	5,050	5,450	6,300	6,850	6,900	6,800	6,300	5,500	5,400	5,400	5,850
Food Stores	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,300
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,200	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,200	1,200
Services & Misc.	7,000	7,050	7,200	7,450	8,200	8,800	8,900	9,000	8,650	7,800	7,450	7,450	7,900
Health Services	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,650	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,650
Government	12,050	12,300	12,350	12,600	12,550	12,100	11,950	11,750	12,550	12,550	12,300	12,050	12,250
Federal	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,750	1,900	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,900	1,750	1,600	1,550	1,750
State	5,250	5,400	5,550	5,550	5,350	5,250	5,200	5,000	5,350	5,300	5,250	5,050	5,300
Local	5,150	5,300	5,200	5,300	5,300	4,900	4,800	4,800	5,300	5,500	5,450	5,450	5,200

Gulf Coast 1999 **17**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	23,600	24,350	25,150	26,250	28,000	30,350	32,100	31,700	29,900	26,800	24,900	24,100	27,250
Goods-producing	4,550	5,000	5,350	5,600	6,050	7,050	9,150	8,750	7,500	5,850	4,600	4,050	6,150
Service-producing	19,050	19,350	19,800	20,650	21,950	23,300	22,950	22,950	22,400	20,950	20,300	20,050	21,150
Mining	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,100	1,100
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,150	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,100
Construction	800	700	750	900	1,150	1,450	1,550	1,650	1,550	1,450	1,250	950	1,200
Manufacturing	2,700	3,250	3,500	3,600	3,750	4,500	6,550	6,000	4,800	3,300	2,300	2,000	3,850
Seafood Processing	1,900	2,400	2,550	2,650	2,800	3,500	5,550	5,000	3,800	2,350	1,350	1,150	2,900
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,150	2,150	2,200	2,350	2,550	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,550	2,400	2,250	2,150	2,400
Trade	4,600	4,700	4,800	5,150	5,650	6,300	6,550	6,400	5,900	5,300	5,200	5,150	5,500
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	600	650	700	800	800	800	650	600	600	650
Retail Trade	4,050	4,150	4,250	4,550	5,000	5,600	5,750	5,600	5,100	4,650	4,600	4,550	4,800
Eating /Drinking Places	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,450	1,700	2,000	2,100	2,050	1,800	1,500	1,400	1,350	1,600
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	750	800	800	850	850	850	850	850	850	850	850	800	850
Services & Misc.	5,000	5,000	5,200	5,500	5,950	6,650	6,650	6,550	6,150	5,550	5,250	5,150	5,700
Health Services	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Government	6,550	6,700	6,800	6,800	6,950	6,900	6,300	6,450	6,950	6,850	6,750	6,800	6,750
Federal	600	600	600	650	700	800	800	800	800	700	650	650	700
State	1,500	1,550	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,550	1,550	1,500	1,650	1,600	1,550	1,550	1,550
Local	4,450	4,550	4,600	4,550	4,600	4,550	3,950	4,150	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,600	4,450

Southwest 1999 **19**

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

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

20 Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries – 1999

Average Weekly Earnings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$1,196.69	\$1,149.58	\$1,284.23	\$1,265.71	\$1,257.92	\$1,263.28	\$1,415.80	\$1,436.35	\$1,499.58	\$1,417.04	\$1,356.60	\$1,337.26	\$1,321.00
Construction	1,047.46	1,123.89	1,161.04	1,176.94	1,215.07	1,249.40	1,302.00	1,305.27	1,192.82	1,161.43	1,027.58	1,068.92	1,183.64
Manufacturing	344.79	584.11	581.54	526.01	514.51	584.55	615.23	679.77	446.43	529.76	522.61	526.22	550.55
Seafood Processing	209.19	563.22	520.95	392.70	370.82	483.36	580.53	643.63	325.48	445.50	284.49	289.17	465.47
Transportation/Comm/Util	625.65	646.55	640.57	644.50	645.70	671.83	721.08	694.08	681.46	683.73	726.57	701.05	674.91
Trade	414.21	427.35	421.50	430.32	436.59	434.83	438.72	450.23	433.95	442.86	445.45	442.20	435.23
Wholesale Trade	630.13	666.47	614.43	624.86	644.92	660.10	652.36	657.41	620.30	619.38	628.46	619.55	636.55
Retail Trade	374.72	381.35	385.59	396.25	399.55	395.67	401.39	413.71	400.89	412.15	413.67	411.58	399.68
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	542.64	570.23	568.56	575.94	596.16	574.49	583.20	636.53	618.84	609.53	603.77	597.49	590.96

Average Weekly Hours

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	46.6	45.6	50.6	48.7	48.7	48.7	54.1	54.1	54.0	52.6	47.5	49.2	50.0
Construction	41.5	44.3	46.0	45.6	45.8	45.9	46.7	46.7	43.0	43.0	38.4	39.9	44.1
Manufacturing	26.2	56.6	53.5	43.4	39.7	45.0	51.7	58.5	34.5	44.0	36.7	35.7	45.5
Seafood Processing	21.7	63.0	57.5	42.5	37.8	45.6	55.5	63.6	31.6	45.0	32.7	30.6	47.4
Transportation/Comm/Util	32.2	34.3	34.2	34.3	35.4	34.9	36.0	34.6	34.4	35.5	35.1	35.0	34.7
Trade	32.9	33.0	32.2	33.0	33.1	33.5	33.8	34.5	33.0	33.0	33.9	33.5	33.3
Wholesale Trade	37.8	37.4	36.4	36.8	37.3	38.2	37.6	38.4	37.3	37.0	37.7	36.9	37.4
Retail Trade	32.0	32.1	31.4	32.4	32.3	32.7	33.2	33.8	32.2	32.3	33.2	32.9	32.6
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	36.2	36.6	36.8	36.2	36.8	36.2	36.0	36.9	36.0	35.5	34.9	34.9	36.1

Average Hourly Earnings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$25.68	\$25.21	\$25.38	\$25.99	\$25.83	\$25.94	\$26.17	\$26.55	\$27.77	\$26.94	\$28.56	\$27.18	\$26.42
Construction	25.24	25.37	25.24	25.81	26.53	27.22	27.88	27.95	27.74	27.01	26.76	26.79	26.84
Manufacturing	13.16	10.32	10.87	12.12	12.96	12.99	11.90	11.62	12.94	12.04	14.24	14.74	12.10
Seafood Processing	9.64	8.94	9.06	9.24	9.81	10.60	10.46	10.12	10.30	9.90	8.70	9.45	9.82
Transportation/Comm/Util	19.43	18.85	18.73	18.79	18.24	19.25	20.03	20.06	19.81	19.26	20.70	20.03	19.45
Trade	12.59	12.95	13.09	13.04	13.19	12.98	12.98	13.05	13.15	13.42	13.14	13.20	13.07
Wholesale Trade	16.67	17.82	16.88	16.98	17.29	17.28	17.35	17.12	16.63	16.74	16.67	16.79	17.02
Retail Trade	11.71	11.88	12.28	12.23	12.37	12.10	12.09	12.24	12.45	12.76	12.46	12.51	12.26
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	14.99	15.58	15.45	15.91	16.20	15.87	16.20	17.25	17.19	17.17	17.30	17.12	16.37

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

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 1999.

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

Annual Average Labor Force – 1997-1999

By region and census area

21

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997	1999	1998	1997
Alaska Statewide	315,209	316,898	314,548	20,072	18,351	24,813	6.4	5.8	7.9	295,137	298,547	289,735
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	168,423	168,110	166,210	8,527	7,555	10,932	5.1	4.5	6.6	159,896	160,555	155,278
Municipality of Anchorage	141,119	141,433	137,837	6,360	5,775	7,958	4.5	4.1	5.8	134,759	135,658	129,879
Mat-Su Borough	29,699	29,002	28,373	2,406	2,005	2,974	8.1	6.9	10.5	27,293	26,997	25,399
Gulf Coast Region	33,576	33,775	35,097	3,313	3,047	4,350	9.9	9.0	12.4	30,263	30,728	30,747
Kenai Peninsula Borough	21,574	21,607	22,303	2,378	2,116	3,026	11.0	9.8	13.6	19,196	19,491	19,277
Kodiak Island Borough	6,900	7,021	7,392	484	506	726	7.0	7.2	9.8	6,416	6,515	6,666
Valdez-Cordova	5,100	5,148	5,403	450	426	599	8.8	8.3	11.1	4,650	4,722	4,804
Interior Region	49,087	49,530	49,382	3,215	3,031	4,091	6.5	6.1	8.3	45,872	46,499	45,291
Denali Borough	1,192	1,207	1,241	96	96	143	8.1	8.0	11.5	1,096	1,111	1,098
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	43,359	43,782	43,598	2,572	2,438	3,305	5.9	5.6	7.6	40,787	41,344	40,293
Southeast Fairbanks	2,508	2,522	2,495	257	240	315	10.2	9.5	12.6	2,251	2,282	2,180
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,027	2,018	2,047	290	257	328	14.3	12.7	16.0	1,737	1,761	1,719
Northern Region	8,301	8,911	8,804	878	712	925	10.6	8.0	10.5	7,423	8,199	7,879
Nome	3,150	3,389	3,335	359	306	392	11.4	9.0	11.8	2,791	3,083	2,943
North Slope Borough	3,109	3,339	3,260	242	172	178	7.8	5.2	5.5	2,867	3,167	3,082
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,042	2,184	2,208	276	234	355	13.5	10.7	16.1	1,766	1,950	1,853
Southeast Region	38,941	39,438	40,538	2,649	2,674	3,329	6.8	6.8	8.2	36,292	36,764	37,209
Haines Borough	1,198	1,195	1,212	133	116	144	11.1	9.7	11.9	1,065	1,079	1,068
Juneau Borough	16,898	17,143	17,386	844	880	1,097	5.0	5.1	6.3	16,054	16,263	16,289
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7,167	7,251	7,654	537	535	726	7.5	7.4	9.5	6,630	6,716	6,928
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	3,308	3,315	3,451	425	394	482	12.8	11.9	14.0	2,883	2,921	2,969
Sitka Borough	4,332	4,386	4,537	224	225	300	5.2	5.1	6.6	4,108	4,161	4,237
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,232	2,282	2,300	150	173	172	6.7	7.6	7.5	2,082	2,109	2,128
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,497	3,541	3,670	310	312	378	8.9	8.8	10.3	3,187	3,229	3,292
Yakutat Borough	309	327	329	26	40	31	8.4	12.2	9.4	283	287	298
Southwest Region	14,487	14,810	14,517	1,252	1,107	1,185	8.6	7.5	8.2	13,235	13,703	13,332
Aleutians East Borough	1,548	1,593	1,571	55	47	62	3.6	3.0	3.9	1,493	1,546	1,509
Aleutians West	1,941	2,000	2,265	134	129	140	6.9	6.5	6.2	1,807	1,871	2,125
Bethel	6,008	6,133	5,858	528	459	523	8.8	7.5	8.9	5,480	5,674	5,335
Bristol Bay Borough	605	620	599	46	41	49	7.6	6.6	8.2	559	579	550
Dillingham	1,733	1,772	1,677	130	113	123	7.5	6.4	7.3	1,603	1,659	1,554
Lake & Peninsula Borough	572	590	570	45	44	42	7.9	7.5	7.4	527	546	528
Wade Hampton	2,080	2,102	1,979	314	274	246	15.1	13.0	12.4	1,766	1,828	1,733

1999 Benchmark. Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Low Unemployment and Inflation for January

Unemployment is a record low for the month

Alaska Employment Scene

by
Brigitta Windisch-Cole
Labor Economist

Alaska's unemployment rate resumed its winter climb, increasing by one and one-half percentage points to 7.4% in January. (See Exhibit 5.) About 23,300 Alaskans were unemployed in January, almost 5,000 more than in December. However, January's rate registered as the best rate ever for that month. In January 1999, about 1,200 more Alaskans were unemployed and the unemployment rate was 7.9%. In areas where winter fisheries play a significant role, such as Kodiak and the Aleutians, the jobless rates were higher this January than in January 1999. Postponement of the snow crab harvest was a factor in these higher rates.

Typical for January, wage and salary employment fell. The over-the-month drop amounted to 6,700 jobs. (See Exhibit 2.) Retail shed the most jobs in January, reflecting cutbacks following the holiday season. Also typical was the drop in government employment because of winter vacation in schools and at the university.

Employment losses in mining and manufacturing industries leave a void

Alaska's economy gained 4,200 jobs from last January, an increase of 1.6%. Although nearly every service-producing industry gained ground

compared to year-ago levels, employment losses in goods-producing industries have weakened overall performance.

Mining, which includes the oil industry, suffered a combined loss of 1,000 jobs compared to last January. Oil industry employment has been a big negative in Alaska's labor market this past year. Hopes for a quick turnaround faded during recent merger talks between the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and BP Amoco. The FTC objected to BP Amoco's proposed acquisition of ARCO, leaving the future ownership of a significant portion of Alaska's oil production capacity unresolved. Future investment in oil fields on the North Slope has been delayed, impacting employment. Oil patch activity is unlikely to pick up until the merger issue is settled. The Northstar and Alpine fields are currently under development. Only a few small exploration targets have been identified.

Manufacturing employment was also down 500 jobs compared to year-ago levels. The impact on the state's economy, however, varies with the type of manufacturing specialty. The drop in seafood processing employment, for example, is not severe in Alaska's labor market because the majority of workers are non-residents who come to the state only during the fishing season. The postponement

of the Bering Sea snow crab harvest until April lessened the need for seasonal help in January. The catch quota, however, is down 84 percent from last year's harvest allowance.

Other manufacturing job losses carry more weight in the state because of their effect on local economies. Between 1995 and 1999, timber employment contracted nearly 24 percent, and the decline continues. In January, there were 200 fewer jobs in the timber industry than in 1999. This number includes recent losses caused by a sawmill closure in Southeast, the business failure of a wood chip manufacturer, and the curtailment of logging on Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, and in the Southeast region. Other changes in manufacturing may lie ahead. Tesoro Alaska, citing high production costs, announced that it may be forced to close its Kenai Peninsula refinery.

January's job balance sheet nets growth

Despite some negatives in mining and manufacturing, January's job balance sheet came in stronger than last year's. The best performing asset was services employment, yielding 4.6% annual employment growth. Health care was the largest contributor. Although part of the growth in health care stemmed from privatization, the statewide expansion of available medical services has helped to boost job growth. In the trade sector, general merchandisers and restaurants formed the dynamics for employment growth. In the transportation, communication and utilities sector airline employment booked net growth and the communication industry benefited from privatization. Growth in construction and real estate employment also helped strengthen this January's job base.

Inflation nearly becomes a non-issue

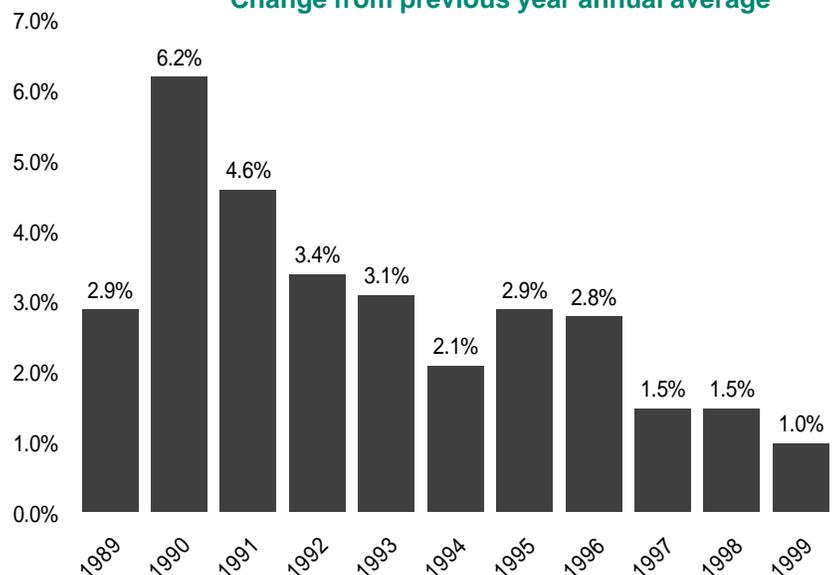
The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, recently released the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the second half of 1999. Consumer prices decreased 0.2% from July to December 1999 in Anchorage. Such a downward movement in consumer prices was last observed in 1987, when Alaska's economy was at the tail end of a recession. Unlike 1987, when the housing category pulled down the all item index, falling prices in a variety of categories drove the 1999 second-half decline.

(Continued on page 30)

Slowest Inflation Rate in 11 Years

Consumer Price Index—Urban Anchorage

Change from previous year annual average



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

2 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

Alaska

	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	1/00	12/99	1/99	12/99	1/99
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	261,700	268,400	257,500	-6,700	4,200
Goods-producing	30,200	29,600	31,500	600	-1,300
Service-producing	231,500	238,800	226,000	-7,300	5,500
Mining	9,000	9,100	10,000	-100	-1,000
Oil & Gas Extraction	7,700	7,700	8,600	0	-900
Construction	10,900	12,200	10,700	-1,300	200
Manufacturing	10,300	8,300	10,800	2,000	-500
Durable Goods	1,700	2,400	1,800	-700	-100
Lumber & Wood Products	600	1,300	800	-700	-200
Nondurable Goods	8,600	5,900	9,000	2,700	-400
Seafood Processing	6,000	3,200	6,500	2,800	-500
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	24,700	25,100	23,600	-400	1,100
Trucking & Warehousing	2,700	2,800	2,600	-100	100
Water Transportation	1,400	1,500	1,400	-100	0
Air Transportation	9,200	9,200	8,900	0	300
Communications	5,000	5,100	4,300	-100	700
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	2,500	2,600	2,600	-100	-100
Trade	53,600	56,800	52,800	-3,200	800
Wholesale Trade	8,500	8,800	8,500	-300	0
Retail Trade	45,100	48,000	44,300	-2,900	800
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	9,300	10,400	8,600	-1,100	700
Food Stores	6,400	6,700	6,700	-300	-300
Eating & Drinking Places	15,000	15,800	14,600	-800	400
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	12,500	12,800	12,400	-300	100
Services & Misc.	68,000	69,400	65,000	-1,400	3,000
Hotels & Lodging Places	5,400	5,800	5,100	-400	300
Business Services	8,200	8,800	7,900	-600	300
Health Services	16,100	16,100	15,200	0	900
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,700	0	-100
Social Services	7,800	8,000	7,400	-200	400
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	7,700	7,700	7,500	0	200
Government	72,700	74,700	72,200	-2,000	500
Federal	16,000	16,500	16,200	-500	-200
State	21,200	22,000	21,200	-800	0
Local	35,500	36,200	34,800	-700	700

Municipality of Anchorage

	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	1/00	12/99	1/99	12/99	1/99
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	128,100	132,200	125,100	-4,100	3,000
Goods-producing	10,500	11,100	10,700	-600	-200
Service-producing	117,600	121,100	114,400	-3,500	3,200
Mining	2,500	2,500	2,900	0	-400
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,400	2,400	2,800	0	-400
Construction	6,000	6,600	5,900	-600	100
Manufacturing	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	100
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	13,800	13,900	12,800	-100	1,000
Air Transportation	5,900	5,900	5,800	0	100
Communications	3,400	3,400	2,600	0	800
Trade	30,300	31,900	30,000	-1,600	300
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,300	6,200	-100	0
Retail Trade	24,100	25,600	23,800	-1,500	300
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	4,800	5,400	4,500	-600	300
Food Stores	2,600	2,700	2,800	-100	-200
Eating & Drinking Places	8,700	8,900	8,400	-200	300
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,600	7,700	7,600	-100	0
Services & Misc.	37,600	38,500	35,800	-900	1,800
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,700	2,900	2,500	-200	200
Business Services	5,900	6,300	5,700	-400	200
Health Services	8,500	8,400	7,900	100	600
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Social Services	3,900	3,900	3,600	0	300
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	5,800	6,000	5,600	-200	200
Government	28,300	29,100	28,200	-800	100
Federal	9,500	9,900	9,700	-400	-200
State	8,700	8,900	8,400	-200	300
Local	10,100	10,300	10,100	-200	0

Notes to Exhibits 2, 3 & 4—Nonagricultural excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers as well as agricultural workers. Government category includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska. Benchmark: March 1999

Exhibits 2 & 3—Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Exhibit 4—Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

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

3 Hours and Earnings

For selected industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	preliminary 1/00	revised 12/99	1/99	preliminary 1/00	revised 12/99	1/99	preliminary 1/00	revised 12/99	1/99
Mining	\$1,209.67	\$1,337.26	\$1,196.69	47.7	49.2	46.6	\$25.36	\$27.18	\$25.68
Construction	1,002.84	1,068.92	1,047.46	38.9	39.9	41.5	25.78	26.79	25.24
Manufacturing	351.91	526.22	344.79	25.8	35.7	26.2	13.64	14.74	13.16
Seafood Processing	189.40	289.17	209.19	20.0	30.6	21.7	9.47	9.45	9.64
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	692.87	701.05	625.65	35.1	35.0	32.2	19.74	20.03	19.43
Trade	453.94	442.20	414.21	33.6	33.5	32.9	13.51	13.20	12.59
Wholesale Trade	621.38	619.55	630.13	37.5	36.9	37.8	16.57	16.79	16.67
Retail Trade	424.08	411.58	374.72	32.9	32.9	32.0	12.89	12.51	11.71
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	616.85	597.49	542.64	36.2	34.9	36.2	17.04	17.12	14.99

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

Benchmark: March 1999

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

4 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

Fairbanks

	preliminary		Changes from:		
	1/00	12/99	1/99	12/99	1/99
North Star Borough					
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,400	33,150	30,800	-1,750	600
Goods-producing	2,400	2,800	2,400	-400	0
Service-producing	29,000	30,350	28,400	-1,350	600
Mining	700	800	650	-100	50
Construction	1,150	1,400	1,200	-250	-50
Manufacturing	550	600	550	-50	0
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,750	2,900	2,850	-150	-100
Trucking & Warehousing	550	550	600	0	-50
Air Transportation	850	900	800	-50	50
Communications	400	400	450	0	-50
Trade	6,550	7,150	6,350	-600	200
Wholesale Trade	800	800	750	0	50
Retail Trade	5,750	6,350	5,600	-600	150
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,100	1,300	1,050	-200	50
Food Stores	700	750	700	-50	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,050	2,250	2,000	-200	50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,150	1,200	1,100	-50	50
Services & Misc.	8,050	8,150	7,700	-100	350
Hotels & Lodging Places	600	600	600	0	0
Health Services	2,000	2,000	1,850	0	150
Government	10,500	10,950	10,400	-450	100
Federal	3,150	3,250	3,150	-100	0
State	4,250	4,650	4,200	-400	50
Local	3,100	3,050	3,050	50	50

Southeast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,200	32,850	31,100	-1,650	100
Goods-producing	2,950	3,800	3,100	-850	-150
Service-producing	28,250	29,050	28,000	-800	250
Mining	300	300	300	0	0
Construction	1,250	1,400	1,300	-150	-50
Manufacturing	1,400	2,100	1,500	-700	-100
Durable Goods	650	1,150	750	-500	-100
Lumber & Wood Products	350	900	500	-550	-150
Nondurable Goods	750	950	750	-200	0
Seafood Processing	450	650	500	-200	-50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,300	2,400	2,250	-100	50
Trade	5,550	5,950	5,500	-400	50
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	0	0
Retail Trade	5,000	5,400	4,950	-400	50
Food Stores	1,150	1,250	1,250	-100	-100
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Services & Misc.	7,350	7,450	7,000	-100	350
Health Services	1,700	1,700	1,650	0	50
Government	11,850	12,050	12,050	-200	-200
Federal	1,600	1,550	1,650	50	-50
State	4,950	5,050	5,250	-100	-300
Local	5,300	5,450	5,150	-150	150

Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,300	14,200	15,000	100	-700
Goods-producing	4,850	4,650	5,450	200	-600
Service-producing	9,450	9,550	9,550	-100	-100
Mining	4,300	4,200	4,800	100	-500
Oil & Gas Extraction	3,850	3,800	4,400	50	-550
Government	4,400	4,450	4,250	-50	150
Federal	150	150	150	0	0
State	300	300	300	0	0
Local	3,950	4,000	3,800	-50	150

Interior Region

	preliminary		Changes from:		
	1/00	12/99	1/99	12/99	1/99
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,600	37,600	35,100	-2,000	500
Goods-producing	2,600	3,050	2,650	-450	-50
Service-producing	33,000	34,550	32,450	-1,550	550
Mining	800	950	850	-150	-50
Construction	1,200	1,500	1,250	-300	-50
Manufacturing	600	600	550	0	50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,150	3,300	3,250	-150	-100
Trade	7,050	7,750	6,900	-700	150
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,250	1,300	1,200	-50	50
Services & Misc.	8,900	9,050	8,550	-150	350
Hotels & Lodging Places	700	700	700	0	0
Government	12,650	13,150	12,550	-500	100
Federal	3,650	3,700	3,700	-50	-50
State	4,450	4,850	4,400	-400	50
Local	4,550	4,600	4,450	-50	100

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	140,200	144,650	136,250	-4,450	3,950
Goods-producing	11,550	12,350	11,550	-800	0
Service-producing	128,650	132,300	124,700	-3,650	3,950
Mining	2,550	2,500	2,900	50	-350
Construction	6,950	7,750	6,700	-800	250
Manufacturing	2,050	2,100	1,950	-50	100
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	14,800	14,950	13,850	-150	950
Trade	33,550	35,350	32,900	-1,800	650
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	8,100	8,250	8,050	-150	50
Services & Misc.	40,650	41,600	38,500	-950	2,150
Government	31,550	32,150	31,400	-600	150
Federal	9,700	10,000	9,850	-300	-150
State	9,550	9,700	9,250	-150	300
Local	12,300	12,450	12,300	-150	0

Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	16,450	14,400	16,300	2,050	150
Goods-producing	3,800	1,450	4,150	2,350	-350
Service-producing	12,650	12,950	12,150	-300	500
Seafood Processing	3,650	1,300	4,000	2,350	-350
Government	5,650	5,850	5,350	-200	300
Federal	300	350	300	-50	0
State	500	500	450	0	50
Local	4,850	5,000	4,600	-150	250

Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	23,800	24,100	23,600	-300	200
Goods-producing	4,350	4,050	4,550	300	-200
Service-producing	19,450	20,050	19,050	-600	400
Mining	1,050	1,100	1,050	-50	0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,050	1,050	1,050	0	0
Construction	800	950	800	-150	0
Manufacturing	2,500	2,000	2,700	500	-200
Seafood Processing	1,750	1,150	1,900	600	-150
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,100	2,150	2,150	-50	-50
Trade	4,800	5,150	4,600	-350	200
Wholesale Trade	550	600	550	-50	0
Retail Trade	4,250	4,550	4,050	-300	200
Eating & Drinking Places	1,250	1,350	1,200	-100	50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	800	800	750	0	50
Services & Misc.	5,100	5,150	5,000	-50	100
Health Services	1,100	1,100	1,050	0	50
Government	6,650	6,800	6,550	-150	100
Federal	650	650	600	0	50
State	1,450	1,550	1,500	-100	-50
Local	4,550	4,600	4,450	-50	100

5 Unemployment Rates

By region and census area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	preliminary 1/00	revised 12/99	1/99
United States	4.5	3.7	4.8
Alaska Statewide	7.4	5.9	7.9
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.6	4.5	5.9
Municipality of Anchorage	4.9	3.9	5.1
Mat-Su Borough	8.9	7.0	10.0
Gulf Coast Region	12.4	11.0	12.7
Kenai Peninsula Borough	14.0	11.1	14.3
Kodiak Island Borough	7.2	11.0	6.9
Valdez-Cordova	12.2	10.3	13.7
Interior Region	8.1	6.0	8.9
Denali Borough	14.4	10.6	12.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	7.0	5.4	8.1
Southeast Fairbanks	14.9	11.1	15.1
Yukon-Koyukuk	16.7	10.9	17.5
Northern Region	10.1	8.5	10.2
Nome	10.9	8.8	12.0
North Slope Borough	7.8	6.4	6.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	12.6	11.2	13.0
Southeast Region	9.6	6.5	10.3
Haines Borough	15.2	12.2	16.9
Juneau Borough	5.5	4.3	6.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	11.1	6.9	11.7
Prince/Wales-Outer Ketchikan	19.2	10.6	20.3
Sitka Borough	6.1	4.4	6.9
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	14.0	10.3	11.5
Wrangell-Petersburg	14.9	9.9	15.3
Yakutat Borough	13.4	8.5	12.8
Southwest Region	10.3	8.7	9.8
Aleutians East Borough	8.2	6.9	6.9
Aleutians West	12.9	8.8	12.1
Bethel	8.4	7.8	8.3
Bristol Bay Borough	11.3	9.2	11.3
Dillingham	10.0	8.1	8.1
Lake & Peninsula Borough	8.8	9.2	9.0
Wade Hampton	15.2	12.8	15.3
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	4.0	4.1	4.3
Alaska Statewide	5.9	5.7	6.3

(Continued from page 27)

For a typical Anchorage consumer, energy, household furnishings, clothing, recreation, education, communication and public transportation (e.g. airfares) costs fell between July and December 1999. Some of the declines resulted from increased retail competition. The combined drop in prices was strong enough to offset increases in health care costs and gasoline prices. The small 0.2% increase in housing costs, which control the biggest portion of consumer spending, was too insignificant to raise the overall cost of living.

Combined with the 1.1% increase in the CPI-U in the first half of 1999, the decline in the second half of the year tamed the annual increase to one percent for 1999, which was Anchorage's lowest rate of inflation in 11 years. (See Exhibit 1.)

1999 Benchmark

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force.

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

Employer Resources

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has created a generic employment application for employers to use in their recruitment process. It is linked to the Alaska Job Center Network (AJCN) - Employer Connection at — www.jobs.state.ak.us/employer.htm. The application is in Adobe Acrobat format, which needs to be opened with Acrobat Reader. Acrobat Reader can be downloaded free from www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Employer Connection - AJCN - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.jobs.state.ak.us/employer.htm". The page content includes:

- Welcome to the Alaska Job Center Network Employer Connection**
- Seafood Industry Employers**: A section with a blue background and white text, containing information about recruiting in the seafood industry.
- Jobs**: The Alaska Job Center Network logo with the tagline "where people and jobs connect!".
- America's Job Bank**: A logo with the text "Direct job order input, resume search and resume scout."
- Job Order Options**: A section with a blue background and white text, containing contact information for the job order office (1-888-830-4473) and links for "On-line Job Order Form", "Job Order Fax Form", and "Alaska Job Centers".
- Welfare-to-Work**: A section with a blue background and white text, containing information about recruiting Welfare-to-Work clients (call 1-888-838-JOBS (5627)).
- Left Sidebar**: A list of links including "Alaska Employer Handbook", "Business Services", "Employment Application (.pdf)", "Employee Bonding", "Employment", "Occupational", and "Tax C".
- Employment Application Form**: A large form titled "Employment Application" with fields for:
 - COMPANY OR EMPLOYER NAME: _____ POSITION APPLIED FOR: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
 - SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (Optional): _____
 - YOUR NAME: Last _____ First _____ Middle _____
 - ADDRESS: _____
 - ARE YOU LEGALLY ELIGIBLE FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S.A? Yes No (If yes, verification will be required)
 - I AM SEEKING A PERMANENT POSITION Yes No
 - I AM SEEKING TEMPORARY WORK UNTIL (DATE): _____
 - IF NECESSARY FOR THE JOB I AM ABLE TO:
 - Work (Which Shifts)? _____
 - Work Overtime? _____
 - Provide a valid Alaska Drivers License? _____
 - ARE YOU ABLE TO PERFORM THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE POSITION WITH OR WITHOUT ACCOMMODATION? Yes No
 - IF NECESSARY FOR THE JOB, ARE YOU OVER: 14 15 16 18 19 21 (Please Circle One)
 - I WILL BE ABLE TO REPORT TO WORK _____ DAYS AFTER BEING NOTIFIED THAT I AM HIRED.
 - EDUCATION Table:

School Name/ Location	Yrs. Completed	Field of Study	Graduate or Degree
High School			
College/University			
Business/Technical			
Other (May include grammar school)			