

ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

APRIL 2013

Alaska's Native Population

WHAT'S INSIDE

Big changes in the information industry

Alaska's IT workers

Alaska has highest percentage of veterans



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor
Dianne Blumer, Commissioner

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Dan Robinson
Chief, Research and Analysis

Sara Whitney
Editor

Sam Dapceвич
Cover Artist

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On the cover:
A totem pole at Sitka National Historic Park. Photo courtesy of sitkaphotos.com.
In the banner on page 4: Diane Douglas-Willard is a Haida basket weaver and educator from Ketchikan.

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Correction

Exhibit 2 on page 15 of the March 2013 print edition had an incorrect title. The correct title is "Rural Kids Most Likely to Stay in Alaska: PFD applicants who were age 15 to 18 in 2000 and lived in Alaska in 2010." The online edition has been corrected.

April Authors



Eddie Hunsinger is the state demographer at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development in Juneau. To reach him, call (907) 465-6029, or e-mail him at Eddie.Hunsinger@alaska.gov.



Eric Sandberg, a Department of Labor research analyst in Juneau, specializes in Alaska geography and population. To reach him, call (907) 465-2437 or e-mail him at Eric.Sandberg@alaska.gov.



Erik Stimpfle, a former Department of Labor research analyst in Juneau, specialized in the Alaska Career Information System. Contact: Dean Rasmussen at (907) 465-6035 or e-mail Dean.Rasmussen@alaska.gov.



Jack Cannon is a research analyst with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development in Juneau. He works on special projects. To reach him, call (907) 465-6030 or e-mail him at Jack.Cannon@alaska.gov.



Neal Fried, a Department of Labor economist in Anchorage, specializes in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region's employment, wages, and the cost of living. To reach him, call (907) 269-4861 or e-mail him at Neal.Fried@alaska.gov.

Alaska Natives a young and growing part of state's workforce



**By Dianne Blumer,
Commissioner**

This month's *Trends* focuses on Alaska's indigenous population of roughly 120,000 people, which at 17 percent is the largest proportion of any state. The Alaska Native population is increasing in small and often remote villages and hubs as well as in urban centers.

Alaska Natives also represent a young and growing part of our workforce. While all Alaskans benefit from a wide range of education and training programs, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development also helps support unique programs such as the partnership between AVTEC and Cook Inlet Tribal Council that is producing two-year registered nurses.

The University of Alaska Anchorage's Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program is training young Alaskans for future high-paying careers as much-needed engineers, especially in our energy and construction industries.

Alaska's Technical and Vocational Education Program, known as TVEP, was created by the Alaska Legislature in 2000 to provide financial assistance to facilities throughout the state that provide technical and vocational education.

Funding from a 0.15 percent tax on wages subject to unemployment insurance — and paid by employees — is allocated by statute, with \$10.7 million in state fiscal year 2014 going to the University of Alaska, University of Alaska Southeast, Galena Interior Learning Academy, Alaska Technical Center in Kotzebue, AVTEC, Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Education Center in Nome, Southwest Alaska Vocational and Education Center in King Salmon, Yuut Elitnaurviat People's Learning Center in Bethel, Partners for Progress Delta in Delta Junction, and New Frontier Vocational Technical Center in Soldotna.

The Information Industry

As it has worldwide, technology has vastly

changed Alaska's communications landscape. For traditional media, this change has created major financial challenges, which have ultimately meant fewer workers in print publishing. Alaska newspapers employ 45 percent fewer workers than they did just a decade ago, reflecting the downsizing of that industry as advertising and circulation revenue move online. Television and radio have also declined, but the loss has been smaller.

Also reflecting the national trend, the growth in online media has been steady, and online publishers continue to search for successful revenue models.

The technology shift has created new opportunities in information technology. More than 4,000 Alaskans work in IT, primarily on computer design, hardware, software, and management. This doesn't include the thousands of workers who use computers every day in other industries.

Alaska's Military

At nearly 15 percent, Alaska's population of veterans is the largest of any state. The same work ethic, experience and loyalty that made them successful in active duty service often make Alaska's veterans superb workers in the civilian workplace.

The Alaska Department of Labor works statewide to help veterans transition into civilian jobs, from our 21 job centers to other events like the Employment Symposium for Military and Veterans on Wednesday, May 1 at the Egan Center in Anchorage. The symposium will include workshops dedicated to helping turn the job fair into job offers. The state's largest single job fair, Hiring Our Heroes: Veterans and Military Spouses Job Fair, will be Friday, Nov. 8 at the University Center in Anchorage. For more information on either event, contact the Anchorage Business Connection at (907) 269-4774 or Nancy.Heckmann@Alaska.Gov.



The Alaska Native Population

Steady growth for original Alaskans through years of change

Alaska is home to one of the largest indigenous populations in the nation. With more than 120,000 people, Alaska Natives represented 17 percent of the state in 2010 — a larger proportion than any other state.

The Alaska Native population is made up of many distinct cultures and has lands in each region of Alaska. After large population declines that followed early contact with Europeans in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Native population has grown substantially over the past 100 years, and that growth is projected to continue.

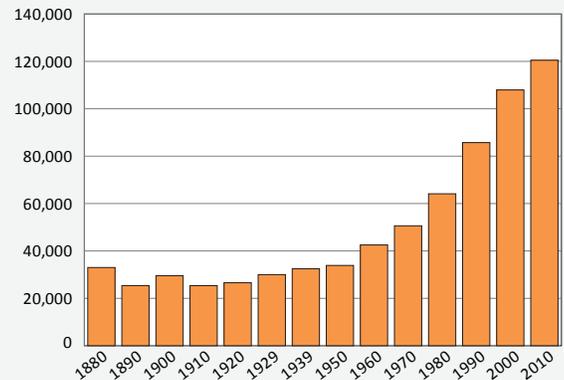
Today, most Alaska Natives still live in small villages and remote regional hubs even though the urban Native population has increased. Alaska's urban areas¹ were home to less than half the state's Native population in 2010.

The first Alaskans

People have resided in Alaska for at least 15,000 years, and possibly for more than 30,000 years. Migration to Alaska and the rest of North America

¹"Urban areas" refers to Anchorage, Juneau, and the Matanuska-Susitna, Fairbanks North Star, and Kenai Peninsula boroughs.

1 Alaska's Native Population 1880 to 2010

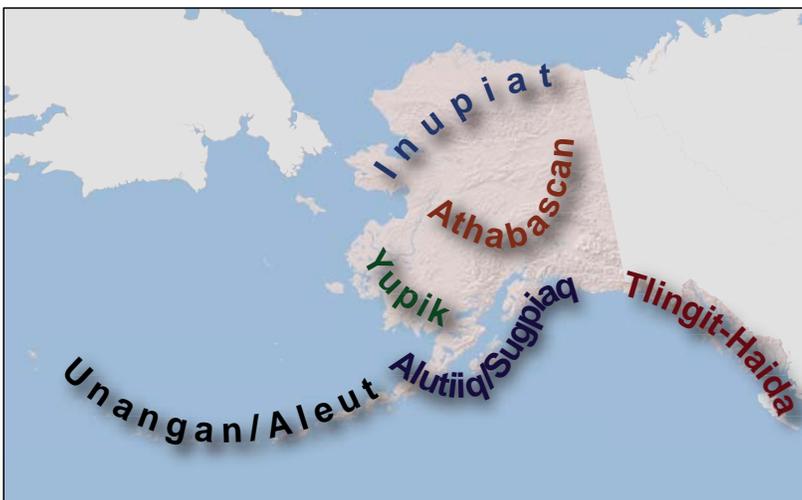


Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

is generally understood to have been across a land bridge that surrounded what is now the Bering Strait. It's unclear how many waves of migration there were, or what drove them, but by the time Europeans first reached Alaska in the 1700s, dozens of distinct cultures and tens of thousands of people lived here.

These original residents of Alaska include the Inupiat from the northern and northwest parts of the state, the Yupik from the southwest coastal and delta region, the Aleut/Unangan from along the Aleutian chain, the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq and Eyak of the southcentral coast, Athabascans from the interior, and the Tlingit and Haida of Southeast. There are also many more distinct cultures within these larger groups.

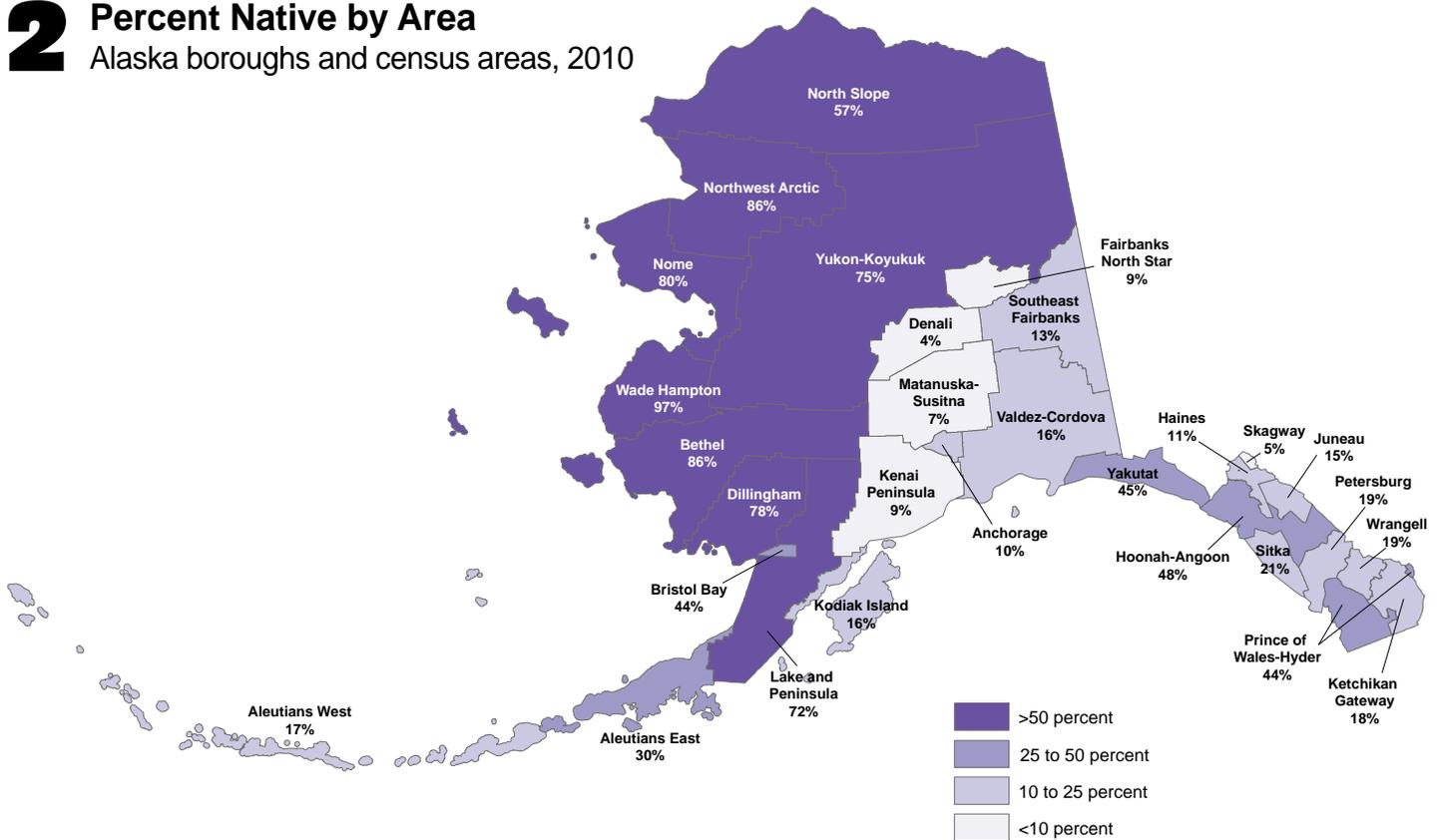
Research on human settlement puts the Alaska Native population at around 80,000 to 90,000 people by the time of regular contact with Europeans in the 18th and 19th centuries. A large part of these populations was lost to disease soon after contact. By the first U.S. census of Alaska in 1880, the count of Alaska Natives was 32,996, along with 430 white settlers who lived mostly in Southeast.



Note: Additional groups include the Eyak of Southcentral and the Tsimshian of Southeast.

2 Percent Native by Area

Alaska boroughs and census areas, 2010



Note: These are “bridged” race estimates, which adjust data from surveys that allow reporting of more than one race group (such as the 2000 and 2010 censuses) so that each respondent is assigned a single race. Data on race alone and race alone or in combination with other races are available at labor.alaska.gov/research.

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

Though that early count was incomplete, it’s clear that massive decline in the Alaska Native population followed first contact.

Further decline in mining era

Mining — especially gold — and commercial fishing of the late 1800s and early 1900s brought the first large-scale migrations of non-Natives to Alaska, and that significantly reduced the share of Native residents in the district. Between 1880 and 1900, Alaska Natives went from representing nearly 100 percent of the overall count to less than 50 percent.

In contrast to the thinly spread-out Native population, the non-Native (mostly white) population at that time was mainly young male workers centered near mining and fishing sites including Juneau, Skagway, Fairbanks, Nome, and Kodiak.

The actual number of Alaska Natives declined as well during that period, to 29,536 in 1900 and

then further to 25,331 in 1910. Since 1910, despite deaths from the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, the Native population has grown with each decade. (See Exhibit 1.)

Growth during military expansion

With the economic slowdown between the 1920 and 1939 censuses, Alaska’s overall population growth halted and the Native share stayed at around 50 percent. The Native proportion later decreased following the start of World War II, the massive entrance of military personnel and buildup for the Cold War, and the expansion of the fishing and timber industries.

By 1950, the percentage of Natives was down to about 25 and still declining, reaching 17 percent by 1970. Still, the Native population was growing steadily, largely in areas far removed from the economic events of those days, and reached more than 50,000 people by the 1970 Census.

3 Alaska Native Populations by Area and Group 2010 Census

Area	Total Population	Athabaskan	Aleut	Inupiat	Tlingit-Haida	Tsimshian	Yupik
Alaska	710,231	16,665	11,216	25,687	13,186	1,939	30,868
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	5	756	2	1	0	6
Aleutians West Census Area	5,561	16	763	25	17	12	31
Anchorage, Municipality	291,826	4,333	3,982	6,103	2,241	221	4,835
Bethel Census Area	17,013	188	44	429	24	1	12,212
Bristol Bay Borough	997	8	163	8	1	0	249
Denali Borough	1,826	36	5	6	0	0	9
Dillingham Census Area	4,847	39	120	96	8	0	3,280
Fairbanks North Star Borough	97,581	3,564	202	1,269	252	9	516
Haines Borough	2,508	0	4	5	213	1	6
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,149	14	11	31	801	0	10
Juneau, City and Borough	31,275	119	186	174	3,825	114	113
Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,400	1,401	860	670	243	26	557
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,477	76	129	35	1,409	333	22
Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	47	1,606	37	45	1	105
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,631	209	616	18	18	2	245
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	1,122	1,034	1,208	444	28	878
Nome Census Area	9,492	68	21	4,455	22	3	1,955
North Slope Borough	9,430	37	9	4,275	16	0	61
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,523	44	17	5,633	17	8	63
Petersburg Census Area	3,203	5	20	14	573	3	1
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	6,172	18	37	44	940	1,075	34
Sitka, City and Borough	8,881	45	77	71	1,394	65	60
Skagway, Municipality	968	0	7	2	22	6	0
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,029	738	10	62	18	0	23
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,636	669	459	81	62	11	65
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,459	33	20	839	3	0	5,475
Wrangell, City and Borough	2,369	6	38	6	351	20	2
Yakutat, City and Borough	662	19	10	18	223	0	7
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,588	3,806	10	71	3	0	48

Notes: "Alaska Native" in this case includes those who reported they were Alaska Native alone or in combination with another race. Though the Alutiiq, or Sugpiaq, have Yupik roots, they are tabulated as Aleut in the 2010 Census. This goes back to the early Russian grouping of all Unangan/Aleut and Alutiiq people as Aleut.

These numbers won't add to bridged-race population estimates. (See Exhibit 4 for more explanation.)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

ANCSA created corporations

In 1966, the Alaska Federation of Natives was formed from the many established Native regional associations to act as a collective voice and help resolve ongoing land rights issues. The discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968 pushed the state and federal government to settle Native land claims, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, was signed into law in 1971.

Under ANCSA, the government granted 44 million acres of land to Alaska Natives and created the 13 Alaska Native regional corporations along with more than 200 village corporations. Native corporations are an important part of the economy

for Alaska Natives, providing dividends to their shareholders and generating a significant part of the economic activity in many Native communities.

Statewide oil booms and busts

The big discovery of oil brought two dramatic population boom-bust periods for the state: one in the 1970s with the construction and completion of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline and one in the 1980s with new oil revenue followed by a significant drop in oil prices. In addition to these, Alaska's birth rates increased in the 1980s when many of its new "baby boomer" residents were in their child-bearing years.

Though the economic events of the 1970s and 1980s affected the whole state, migration shifts in the Native population were much smaller. The Native population grew less than the non-Native population, but with its robust birth rates it gained more than 35,000 people in that 20-year span — a 70 percent increase. By the 2000 Census, the Alaska Native and American Indian statewide population was 107,929.

A fifth of Alaskans

As of 2010, an estimated 120,452 people in the state were Alaska Native or American Indian, representing 17 percent of the state population. Including those who identified any Native ancestry increased the total to 20 percent, or nearly 140,000.

Majority Native areas

While many Alaska Natives live in Alaska's major population centers, the areas with the highest proportions of the Native population are in remote western and northern Alaska. Eight Alaska boroughs or census areas were over 50 percent Native in the 2010 Census, and six were over 75 percent Native. (See Exhibit 2.)

Of the major Native groups counted in the Census, the Yupik and Inupiat of western and northern Alaska had the largest populations, followed by Athabascan, Tlingit and Haida, Aleut, and Tsimshian. Nearly 13,000 Alaskans reported American Indian heritage in 2010.

Southwest home to most Yupik

Of the more than 30,000 Yupik counted in Alaska in 2010, 75 percent lived in the western part of the state and were the majority in the Bethel, Dillingham, and Wade Hampton census areas. Like all Alaska Native groups, a significant share

4 Where Alaska Natives Lived in 2010 vs. 2000

Alaska boroughs and census areas, April

	2000		2010	
	Total	Alaska Native or American Indian	Total	Alaska Native or American Indian
State of Alaska	626,932	107,929	710,231	120,452
Aleutians East Borough	2,697	1,036	3,141	953
Aleutians West Borough	5,465	1,225	5,561	971
Anchorage, Municipality	260,283	21,851	291,826	28,211
Bethel Census Area	16,047	13,575	17,013	14,601
Bristol Bay Borough	1,258	571	997	436
Denali Borough	1,893	111	1,826	77
Dillingham Census Area	4,922	3,679	4,847	3,774
Fairbanks North Star Borough	82,840	6,873	97,581	8,598
Haines Borough	2,392	313	2,508	275
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,574	1,281	2,150	1,032
Juneau, City and Borough	30,711	4,220	31,275	4,775
Kenai Peninsula Borough	49,691	4,333	55,400	5,141
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	14,067	2,418	13,477	2,414
Kodiak Island Borough	13,913	2,277	13,592	2,218
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,823	1,422	1,631	1,180
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	59,322	4,026	88,995	6,568
Nome Census Area	9,196	7,161	9,492	7,598
North Slope Borough	7,385	5,330	9,430	5,403
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,208	6,121	7,523	6,436
Petersburg Census Area	4,260	816	3,815	736
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	6,125	2,625	5,559	2,453
Sitka, City and Borough	8,835	1,908	8,881	1,877
Skagway, Municipality	862	52	968	50
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	6,174	889	7,029	930
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	10,195	1,567	9,636	1,585
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,028	6,648	7,459	7,202
Wrangell, City and Borough	2,448	448	2,369	455
Yakutat, City and Borough	808	357	662	300
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	6,510	4,796	5,588	4,203

Notes: Bridged race estimates. "Bridged" race estimates are race estimates that adjust data from surveys that allow reporting of more than one race group (such as the 2000 and 2010 Censuses) so that each respondent is assigned a single race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

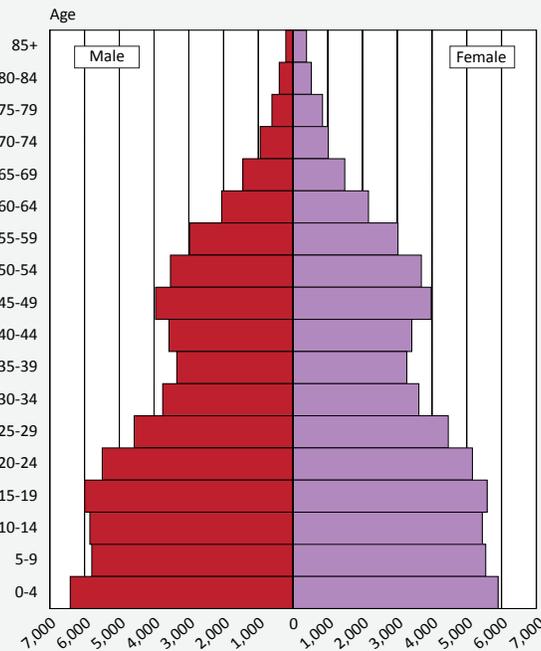
of the Yupik people — 16 percent — lived primarily in Anchorage. Bethel Census Area had the largest population of Yupik by far, at 12,212. (See Exhibit 3.)

Inupiat make up most of north

Alaska was home to nearly 26,000 people of Inupiat origin in 2010, and more than half lived in the Northern Region. The Inupiat made up the majority of the household population in the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Boroughs, and just under half the population of the Nome Census Area.

The single area with the largest number of Inupiat was Anchorage, where more than 6,100 people

5 Population by Age and Sex Alaska Natives, 2010



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

in 2010. With lands covering the entire Interior down to parts of the southcentral coast, many Athabascans live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Anchorage. The massive and sparsely populated Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, which has no central hub and is made up of dozens of small communities, was home to more than 3,800 Athabascans in 2010 — more than two-thirds of the YK Census Area’s population.

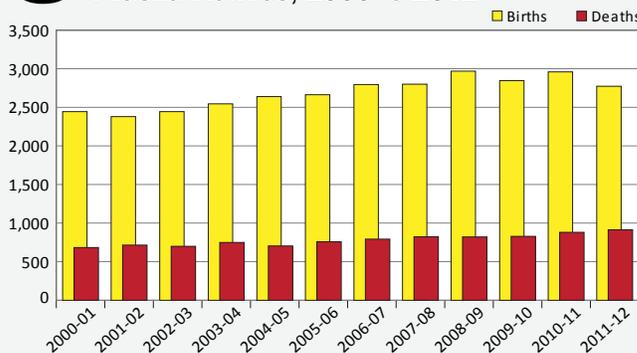
Tlingit, Haida live in Southeast

The Tlingit and Haida of Southeast Alaska accounted for more than 13,000 Alaska residents in 2010. While the domain of the Tlingit has historically covered almost all of Southeast, Haida are originally from Prince of Wales Island.

The largest Tlingit communities are in the Southeast hubs of Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan, but Anchorage is home to many Tlingit as well.

The Tsimshian originated in British Columbia but have resided in Metlakatla on Annette Island — Alaska’s only Indian Reservation — since the late 1800s. Tsimshian had a statewide population of 1,939 in 2010.

6 Births and Deaths Alaska Natives, 2000 to 2012



Sources: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Aleut includes two groups

The basic 2010 Census tables for the Aleut population include both the Aleut/Unangan of the Aleutian chain and the Alaska Peninsula as well as the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq of the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Island, and Southcentral Alaska.

The Russians used the word “Aleut” in the 18th century for both the Unangan and the Sugpiaq. “Alutiiq” reflects the Sugpiaq pronunciation of “Aleut,” but many Alutiiq/Sugpiaq do use the “Aleut” spelling. Though the data group the two, the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq are related by language to the Yupik, and the Unangan are not.

reported they were Inupiat alone or in combination with another race. Northwest Arctic Borough had the largest number of people who self-identified as Inupiat alone, at 5,268.

Athabascans cover a large area

Athabascans had an Alaska population of 16,665

The total population count for “Aleut” in the 2010 Census was 11,216, with nearly 40 percent residing in Anchorage. Kodiak Island Borough, a major area for the Alutiiq, was home to more than 1,600 Alutiiq or Aleut people in 2010. Large parts of the household populations of Aleutians East Borough and Aleutians West Census Area identified as Aleut as well.

Increasingly urban

Within the state, a growing share of the Alaska Native population lives in the population centers, largely away from village life. Between 2000 and 2010, the portion of the Alaska Native or American Indian population that lived in Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna, Fairbanks North Star, Juneau, and Kenai Peninsula boroughs increased from 38 to 44 percent. Anchorage, which is home to most Alaskans overall, gained 6,360 people of Alaska Native or American Indian origin between 2000 and 2010, by far the most in the state. (See Exhibit 4.)

Rural to urban migration

The reason for the increasingly urban residence of Alaska Natives is migration, both historic and current. Migration data based on Permanent Fund Dividend applications show clear net migration from majority-Native areas to the rest of the state as well as outside. On average, the mostly Native boroughs lose about 750 residents per year to the rest of the state and lose about 900 people overall.

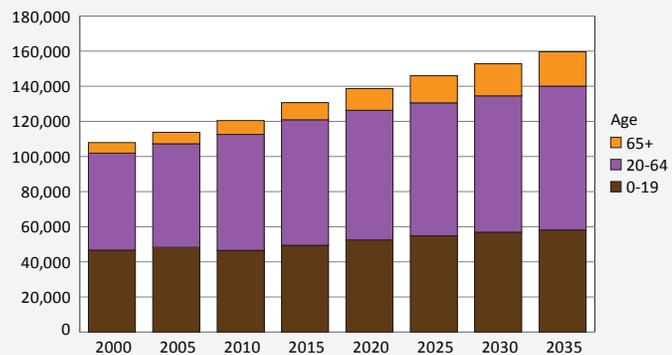
It's important to note, though, that these data include all residents of those majority-Native areas and not just Natives. Also, many people are moving both to and from remote Alaska. Further, many urban Alaska Natives keep strong ties with their traditional Native communities and may spend significant parts of the year there or plan to eventually return.

Large presence in Washington

A little over one-fourth of those with Alaska Native origin lived outside Alaska as of 2010 — a large share, but one that hasn't changed much since 2000. Washington has by far the most Alaska Native residents outside of Alaska, with 9 percent of the nationwide total in 2010, which includes Alaska. Twenty-two percent of U.S. residents with Tlingit, Haida, or Tsimshian ancestry lived in Washington, and 15 percent of those with Aleut/Unangan or Alutiiq/Sugpiaq ancestry lived there.

California and Oregon are the only other states that were home to more than 1 percent of Alaska Natives, at 4 and 2 percent respectively.

7 Population Distribution by Age Alaska Natives, 2000 to 2035



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

Consistently high birth rates

Alaska Natives have higher birth rates than non-Natives, and these contribute to steady population growth at the state level as well as for many remote communities that regularly lose residents to migration. On average, Natives have a total fertility rate — the number of children per woman — of more than 3, compared to less than 2.5 for non-Natives in the state.

Residents of majority-Native boroughs and census areas have even higher fertility rates than the Native population as a whole. Wade Hampton Census Area has a rate of over 4, and several areas in western and northern Alaska have rates over 3.5.

A young population overall

With decades of high birth rates, the Alaska Native population is young. The median age of Natives in 2010 was just 26.7 compared to 33.8 for the whole state. There are relatively few Alaska Natives in the highest age groups, so even with lower life expectancy than the Alaska average, the natural increase (births minus deaths) of Natives in Alaska is high and more than makes up for statewide Native losses due to out-migration. Statewide net migration losses of the Native population can vary considerably from year to year, and averaged an estimated 650 residents per year between 2000 and 2010. (See exhibits 5 and 6.)

Continued on page 13

Big Changes for the Information Industry

Newspapers decline as online content increases

In recent years, the Internet has rapidly reshaped the way people share information, and the increasing popularity of smart phones and tablets continues to reinforce this shift. Portability has made it even easier to stream radio and movies, or to read 10 online newspapers from a single portal.

With these continual advances in technology, the information industry has had to change the way it does business or risk becoming obsolete. Job declines have been a trend industry-wide over the past decade, with decreases in nearly every category and an overall drop of 14 percent in Alaska between 2001 and 2011. (See Exhibit 1.) The U.S. lost an even greater share at 25 percent.

Though losses have been industry-wide, traditional media such as newspapers and radio have been hit hardest as more people switch to online services.

Telecommunications big here

In Alaska, the information industry is relatively small at less than 2 percent of jobs, or 6,318 in 2012. (See Exhibit 2.) However, its products and

services are in nearly every household and business in the state. In addition to broadcast and print journalism, “information” includes employment in film and music and the largest category, telecommunications.

Telecommunication companies — which provide Internet, cellular phone service, local phone service, and satellite television — represent 65.5 percent of all industry jobs and 74 percent of industry wages. This sets Alaska apart from the nation as a whole, where telecommunications makes up just 32.9 percent of the information industry. (See Exhibit 3.)

Even though telecommunications jobs are down somewhat in Alaska over the past decade, total wages for telecommunications grew by nearly \$55.6 million. (See Exhibit 4.)

Newspapers hit hardest

Newspapers, radio, and television used to be the only options for news and entertainment, with local papers taking the lion’s share of daily news customers. But between 2001 and 2011, Alaska’s newspapers lost 45 percent of their employment,

1 Jobs and Wages in the Information Industry

Alaska, 2001 to 2011

	Monthly Employment			Total Wages			Average Annual Wages	
	2001	2011	Change	2001	2011	Change	2001	2011
Information, All sectors	7,342	6,317	-1025	\$320,147,000	\$369,486,000	\$49,339,000	\$43,606	\$58,490
Publishing, except Internet	1,293	790	-503	\$36,521,000	\$30,841,000	-\$5,680,000	\$28,254	\$39,060
Newspaper publishers	1,139	618	-521	\$30,449,000	\$20,969,000	-\$9,480,000	\$26,744	\$33,935
Motion picture and sound recording	470	408	-62	\$4,904,000	\$5,342,000	\$438,000	\$10,440	\$13,068
Broadcasting, except Internet (mostly TV and radio)	1,002	807	-195	\$30,661,000	\$31,522,000	\$861,000	\$30,594	\$39,056
Telecommunications	4,278	4,139	-139	\$238,053,000	\$293,613,000	\$55,560,000	\$55,651	\$70,941
Data processing, hosting, etc.	234	60	-174	\$8,267,000	\$3,249,000	-\$5,018,000	\$35,368	\$54,304
Other information services*	50	113	63	\$1,131,000	\$4,919,000	\$3,788,000	\$22,424	\$43,528

*Totals do not sum to the total in 2001 because of 2007 coding changes. Internet publishing/broadcasting is now classified as “Other Information Services.”

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

Alaska's newspapers lost 45 percent of their employment between 2001 and 2011.

dwindling from 1,100 jobs to 600. Annual wages paid to employees also fell by \$9.5 million, and the number of reporters working in Alaska reached a decade low of 216 in 2011, down from 338 ten years before.

One exception to this downward trend is the growth of news syndicates such as The Associated Press, which provide content for newspapers across the country. News syndicates gained 942 jobs nationwide between 2001 and 2011.

Alaska's losses echo a nationwide trend, with U.S. newspaper employment dropping at about the same rate as Alaska — an average of 4.1 percent each year. Even the largest markets have been hit, with New York and California publishers losing 32.3 percent and 52 percent of their jobs respectively. These cuts have come as newspapers laid off workers, went out of business, or stopped publishing print editions.

Online-only publishers grow

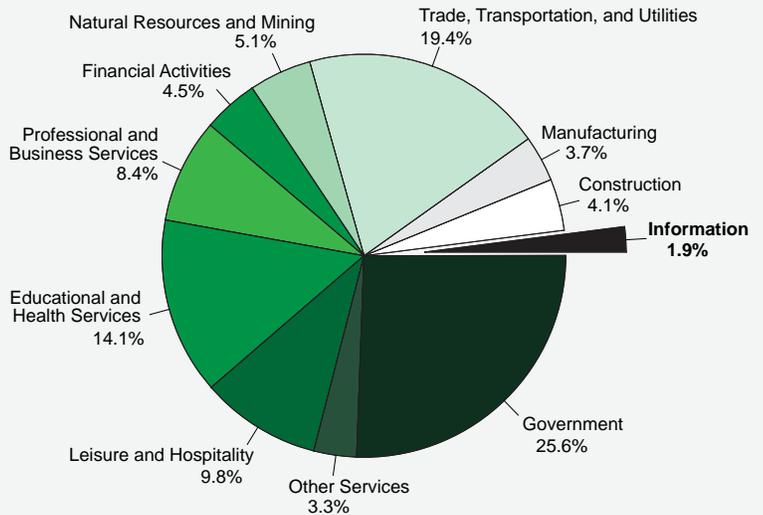
Newspapers that publish exclusively online are no longer classified as newspapers but as “online publishers,” a mix that includes Web search portals and radio, television, sports, and entertainment Web sites. These companies appear to be growing as traditional media providers decline or remain flat.

Alaska has relatively few online publishers and broadcasters, with just 44 jobs in 2011. Still, that's more than double the 15 jobs in 2008, the first year data were available for this category. Alaska appears to be in step with the rest of the country, where online publishing employment grew 27.9 percent between 2008 and 2011 alone.

Smaller decline for radio, TV

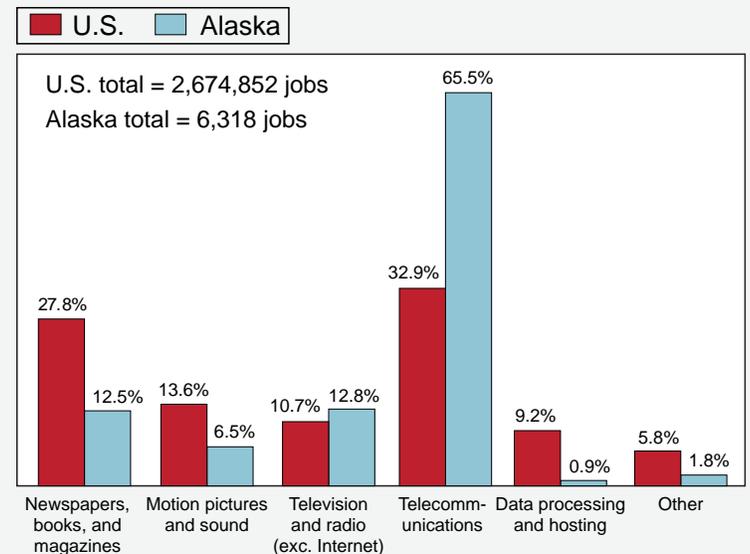
Alaska's television and radio stations weren't hit quite as hard as newspapers, but the broadcasting decline has been steady year after year for a total of 195 lost jobs between 2001 and 2011, or a 19 percent decline.

2 Information a Small Share of Economy
Alaska's industry makeup, 2012



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

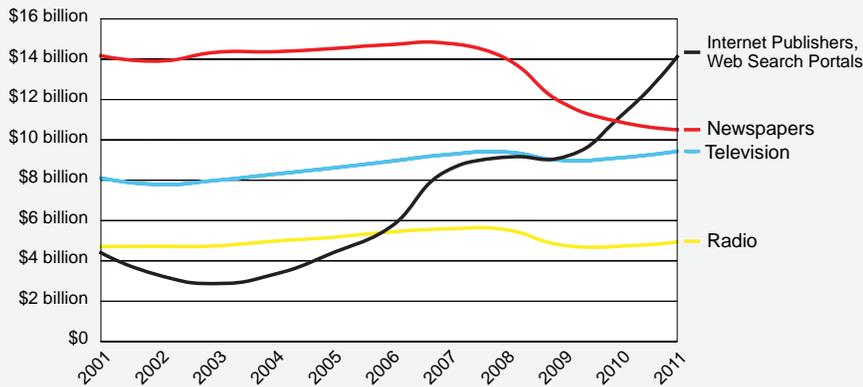
3 Telecommunications Bigger in Alaska
Alaska and U.S. information industries, 2012



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

4 Big Shifts in Total Yearly Wages

Select Alaska media categories, 2001 to 2011



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

Nonprofit stations are a major presence in Alaska, providing local jobs in a media market that faces increasing pressure from outside competition.

Public broadcasting is funded by government grants, corporate sponsorship, and private donations. Alaska has 30 public radio stations and four public television stations, and in 2011 about 30 percent of the state's radio station employment was in public radio.

Public radio stations play a bigger role here than they do elsewhere. They are a key part of the Alaska Emergency Alert System, which broadcasts public safety messages and warnings for

natural disasters and storms. These stations operate 60 radio signal translators that reach 95 percent of all Alaskans, and in some remote areas, public radio is the only station available.

More film projects

Film and television are a small part of the state's information industry, but they've become more visible in recent years with the filming of a handful of popular reality television shows. Bering Sea Gold and Alaska Gold are two of the newer additions, joining shows such as Alaska State Troopers and The Deadliest Catch, which are watched by millions nationwide.

A tax credit program for production companies is a possible factor in the growth of filming in Alaska, projects that include television shows, feature films, commercials, and documentaries. However, employment growth related to increased filming in Alaska would be spread across a variety of industries — everything from catering and accommodations to transportation and construction — and not isolated in the information industry.

Future overall decline is likely

Information is forecasted to grow less than any other industry in Alaska's private sector in the near future. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development's 2010 to 2020 industry fore-

5 Job Forecasts for Media Occupations

Alaska information industry, 2010 to 2020

	Employment			Job Openings, 2010 to 2020		
	2010	2020	Change	Growth	Replacement	Total
Public Relations Specialists	328	358	9.1%	30	87	117
Reporters and Correspondents	155	143	-7.7%	0	58	58
Radio and Television Announcers	213	213	0	0	56	56
Graphic Designers	169	174	3%	5	47	52
Audio and Video Equipment Technicians	153	160	4.6%	7	41	48
Editors	152	152	0	0	41	41
Broadcast Technicians	115	112	-2.6%	0	31	31
Producers and Directors	94	96	2.1%	2	27	29
Writers and Authors	54	57	5.6%	3	14	17
Multimedia Artists and Animators	30	34	13.3%	4	6	10
Camera Operators, Television, Video, and Motion Picture Photographers	45	46	2.2%	1	7	8
	40	40	0	0	4	4

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

cast projects just 1.6 percent growth, or 1,010 new jobs — far below the forecasted 12 percent growth for all industries. Most job openings will likely come from replacements rather than new positions.

Although some occupations in media are expected to grow, job openings for reporters are forecasted to decrease 7.7 percent by 2020. (See Exhibit 5.) Job openings for radio and television announcers, editors, and broadcast technicians are also forecasted to decline somewhat or remain flat.

ALASKA NATIVES

Continued from page 9

Steady growth projected

Population projections based on rates of births, deaths, and migration suggest the state's Native population will grow steadily through 2035, gaining 40,000 people for a 33 percent increase from the 2010 Census. To compare, the state as a whole is projected to add a little more than 200,000 people to its 2010 count of 710,231, for a 29 percent increase. (See Exhibit 7 on page 9.)

All age groups to increase

The Native population ages 20 to 64, which roughly covers the working ages, is expected to increase by nearly 16,000 people, or 24 percent, between 2010 and 2035. That increase is very large and is attributable to the high birth rates among Natives over the past 25 years. For the state, the same age group is projected to increase by just 11 percent through 2035.

The population of Alaska Natives age 65 or

older is projected to grow by nearly 12,000 people, or 150 percent, between 2010 and 2035. Though that increase is dramatic and will represent an important shift for the Native community, it's not out of line with the projected statewide increase of 180 percent over the same period.

Sustained populations

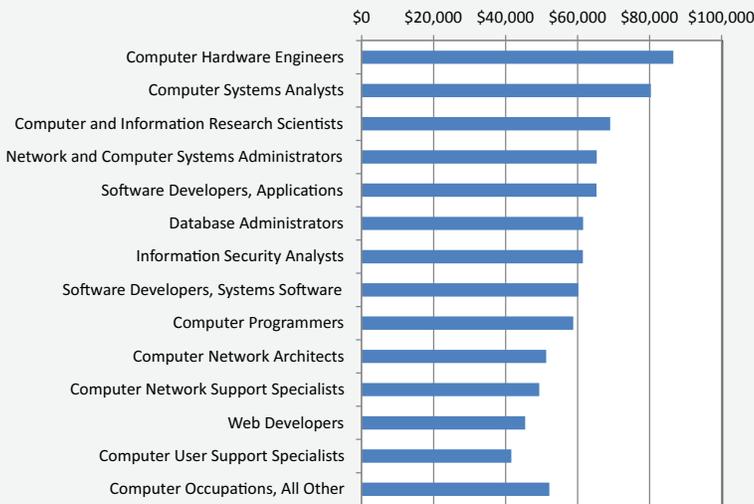
Through the dramatic ups and downs of population and economic change that Alaska has seen over the past 100 years, the Alaska Native population has sustained a steady increase in numbers. By the start of the 21st century, the Native population was more than 100,000 and on pace to reach 150,000 by 2030.

Though Alaska Natives are increasingly connected to the state's biggest cities, many Native villages in remote areas still gain population regularly, and continued growth for both ways of life is likely.

Alaska's IT Workers

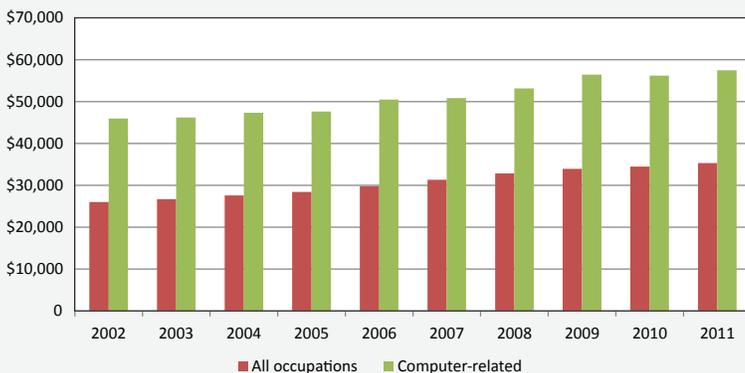
The jobs and earnings of computer workers

1 Computer Engineers Earn the Most Alaska information technology, 2011



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

2 Computer-Related Earnings Higher Versus all Alaska occupations, 2011



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

“A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.” – Emo Phillips

It wasn't until the end of the 19th century that the word “computer” changed from a reference to a person who performed calculations or computations to a machine. Computers are an increasing part of the way many people make a living, and because businesses often depend on computers to succeed, they also rely on those who ensure computers work properly and meet their business needs.

More than 4,400 people worked in computer-related jobs in Alaska in 2011. This number includes those who worked in core information technology such as design, development, management and support of hardware, software, and systems. It does not include the thousands of workers who use computers for tasks like data entry or keeping the books for a business.

In Alaska, the average IT worker is male and about 40 years old. In 2011, about 77 percent were men with an average age of 41.3, which is close to the U.S. average. The youngest average was 35.9 for Web developers while computer and information research scientists (mostly computer scientists) were the oldest at 48.5.

Higher wages

IT workers, who are just 1 percent of Alaska's workers, earned a total of \$254 million in 2011 with an average yearly wage of \$57,469. In 2002, their pay averaged 43 percent more than all workers in the state, but by 2011 their average wage was only about 39 percent higher than the average for all workers. It appears some IT jobs with lower average pay such as computer user support specialists — or technical support — added more positions over the decade than some with a higher average wage such as programmers.

Computer hardware engineers had the highest an-

3 Characteristics of Alaska's IT Workers

Earnings, gender, age and region, 2011

	Total	Female	Male	Working all 4 qtrs	% Working all 4 qtrs	Total earnings ¹	Avg annual earnings
People in computer-related occupations	4,423	965	3,165	3,584	81.0%	\$254,185,054	\$57,469
Occupation							
Computer User Support Specialists	1,156	282	833	863	74.7%	\$48,086,879	\$41,598
Computer Programmers	629	136	463	539	85.7%	\$36,994,636	\$58,815
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	624	81	518	547	87.7%	\$40,753,587	\$65,310
Computer Systems Analysts	505	144	311	421	83.4%	\$40,596,302	\$80,389
Computer Network Support Specialists	332	54	265	282	84.9%	\$16,378,786	\$49,334
Software Developers, Systems Software	231	20	147	145	62.8%	\$13,900,368	\$60,175
Software Developers, Applications	222	47	149	189	85.1%	\$14,496,360	\$65,299
Database Administrators	153	56	89	120	78.4%	\$9,417,807	\$61,554
Computer and Information Research Scientists	84	30	51	71	84.5%	\$5,802,781	\$69,081
Information Security Analysts	65	18	45	58	89.2%	\$3,998,008	\$61,508
Computer Hardware Engineers	62	3	52	54	87.1%	\$5,370,151	\$86,615
Web Developers	56	16	37	43	76.8%	\$2,546,263	\$45,469
Computer Network Architects	14	0	12	8	57.1%	\$717,820	\$51,273
Computer Occupations, All Other	290	78	193	244	84.1%	\$15,125,306	\$52,156
Industry							
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	986	154	697	732	74.2%	\$63,096,754	\$63,993
State Government	920	193	704	833	90.5%	\$50,546,729	\$54,942
Information	589	111	461	516	87.6%	\$34,155,723	\$57,989
Local Government	553	162	380	399	72.2%	\$24,847,902	\$44,933
Health Care and Social Assistance	455	169	269	378	83.1%	\$24,748,010	\$54,391
Finance and Insurance	306	74	214	254	83.0%	\$18,472,330	\$60,367
All Other Industries	614	102	440	472	76.9%	\$38,317,606	\$62,407
Region							
Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna	2,389	551	1,838	2,114	88.5%	\$149,203,908	\$62,455
Interior	528	102	426	460	87.1%	\$30,312,860	\$57,411
Southeast	422	95	327	383	90.8%	\$22,928,840	\$54,334
Gulf Coast	171	38	133	136	79.5%	\$9,045,405	\$52,897
Southwest	162	77	85	77	47.5%	\$3,776,832	\$23,314
Northern	101	33	68	79	78.2%	\$5,397,119	\$53,437
Outside of Alaska or Unknown	650	69	288	335	51.5%	\$33,520,089	\$51,569
Gender							
Male	3,165	0	3,165	2,688	84.9%	\$190,003,250	\$60,033
Female	965	965	0	795	82.4%	\$50,265,229	\$52,088
Unknown	293	0	0	101	34.5%	\$13,916,576	\$47,497
Age Group							
14 to 21	189	75	114	44	23.3%	\$1,487,597	\$7,871
22 to 35	1,283	210	1,073	1,081	84.3%	\$63,376,891	\$49,397
36 to 50	1,575	370	1,205	1,397	88.7%	\$101,427,631	\$64,398
Over 50	1,080	308	772	960	88.9%	\$73,937,714	\$68,461
Unknown	296	2	1	102	34.5%	\$13,955,221	\$47,146

¹Earnings include all reported wages workers earned for the year, whether computer-related or not.

Note: Some rows will not sum to the total because gender was not always reported.

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

nual wage at \$86,615 in 2011 — more than twice the average for tech support.

Mainly private, professional

Every industry has IT workers, but professional, scientific, and technical services employed close to 1,000 of them in 2011 — more than any other industry. Some provide direct computer-related services, and others provide expertise that requires workers with advanced computer skills.

State government, wired telecommunication companies, local government, and health care also employed large numbers of IT workers in 2011.

Two-thirds were in the private sector, but the State of Alaska was the single largest employer with more than 900 employees in IT.

More than half of IT workers in the state worked in Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in 2011 (2,389). The region also had the highest total and annual average wages of any region.

Employment Scene

Alaska has the nation's highest percentage of veterans

You're more likely to run into a veteran of the U.S. military in Alaska than in any other state. Nearly 15 percent of Alaskans age 18 and over are veterans versus less than 10 percent nationwide. (See Exhibit 1.) Other states come close to Alaska, including Montana and Maine near 13 percent, but most states trail by a substantially larger margin.

The most logical explanation for the state's large veteran population is the sizeable presence of the military. In 2012, the men and women who serve in the armed forces and their dependents made up 8 percent of Alaska's population versus 1 percent for the nation.

More important than the current size of the active-duty military is its historical presence in the state and the outsized role it has played. In the 1940s and 1950s, the military became so large the state was sometimes referred to as "Military Alaska." In 1957, over a third of the state's population was military personnel and their families, and a year after statehood, in 1960, a third of the labor force was uniformed military. Today's large population of veterans reflects this history.

Highest share near Fairbanks

The concentration of veterans in different parts of the state also appears related to the proximity and size of the active-duty military population. (See Exhibit 1.) The Fairbanks area is home to the largest percentage of veterans in the state. Southeast Fairbanks — the Delta Junction/Greely/Tok area — and the city of Fairbanks top the list.

Southeast Fairbanks is home to Fort Greely, currently the nation's launch site for antibalistic missiles. Southeast Fairbanks also borders the Fairbanks North Star Borough, home to both Eielson Air Force Base and Fort Wainwright. Combined, these installations account for 22 percent of Fairbanks' entire resident population — the largest concentration of military population in the state.

1 Veterans by Area Alaska and U.S., 2007 to 2011

	Number of veterans	Percent veterans
Alaska	71,861	14.5%
U.S.	22,215,303	9.6%
Aleutians East Borough	82	2.9%
Aleutians West Census Area	474	10.3%
Anchorage, Municipality	30,874	15.2%
Bethel Census Area	788	7.3%
Bristol Bay Borough	96	12.5%
Denali Borough	183	13.8%
Dillingham Census Area	223	6.9%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	11,584	17.6%
Haines Borough	297	15.0%
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	207	12.6%
Juneau, City and Borough	2,704	11.5%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	5,776	14.0%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	1,252	12.8%
Kodiak Island Borough	1,082	12.5%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	82	7.7%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	9,538	15.6%
Nome Census Area	663	10.8%
North Slope Borough	570	9.2%
Northwest Arctic Borough	458	9.4%
Petersburg Census Area	394	13.3%
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	532	12.9%
Sitka, City and Borough	835	12.4%
Skagway, Municipality	59	6.6%
Southeast Fairbanks C.A.	1,051	21.9%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	945	13.1%
Wade Hampton Census Area	315	7.3%
Wrangell, City and Borough	302	16.9%
Yakutat, City and Borough	50	8.6%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	445	10.9%

Source, American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011

Anchorage is home to the largest veteran count along with an above-average share of veterans. Anchorage is the location of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, the state's largest military installation and home to 30,933 Army and Air Force active-duty service members and dependents.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's large veteran population can be explained by its proximity to Elmendorf-Richardson. Not all large veteran

populations can be explained by nearby active-duty personnel, though — for example, the high concentration of veterans in Wrangell.

More in Alaska’s labor force

You’re also more likely to work with a veteran in Alaska. According to 2012 Current Population Survey data, 62.4 percent of Alaska veterans are part of the civilian labor force — considerably higher than the 52 percent nationwide. The next-highest states were Virginia and South Dakota, both at 60.6 percent.

Similar unemployment rates

The unemployment rate for Alaska’s veterans in 2012 was 6.3 percent compared to 6.9 percent for Alaska’s nonveterans. (See Exhibit 2.) This is not unusual — nationally, the veteran rate was also lower than that of the nonveteran population.

Every year during the past 10, the unemployment rates for the nation’s veterans have been below their nonveteran counterparts, while in Alaska

2 Veteran Unemployment Rates Alaska and U.S., 2003 to 2012

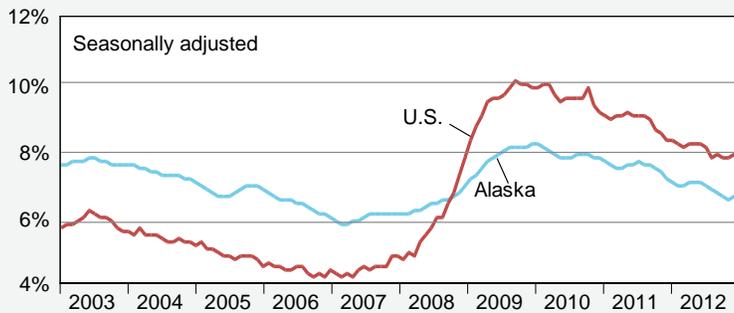
	Alaska veterans	Alaska nonveterans	U.S. veterans	U.S. nonveterans
2003	7.1%	7.1%	5.0%	5.4%
2004	6.6%	6.7%	4.6%	5.0%
2005	6.2%	5.8%	4.0%	4.6%
2006	6.6%	6.4%	3.8%	4.1%
2007	4.5%	5.6%	3.8%	4.1%
2008	6.2%	6.1%	4.6%	5.2%
2009	7.4%	7.6%	8.1%	8.6%
2010	8.1%	7.3%	8.7%	9.0%
2011	6.2%	7.0%	8.3%	8.4%
2012	6.3%	6.9%	7.0%	7.5%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey

there have been years over that period when veteran unemployment rates have been higher. The waxing and waning of the jobless rates over the past decade for both veterans and nonveterans moved in concert with the overall labor market. The rates tended to be low before the recession, increased with the recession, and are decreasing as the economy recovers.

1 Unemployment Rates

January 2003 to February 2013



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis; and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

2 Statewide Employment

Nonfarm wage and salary

Alaska	Preliminary		Revised		Year-Over-Year Change	
	2/13	1/13	2/12	2/12	90% Confidence Interval	
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary ¹	320,600	314,200	319,400	1,200	-4,877	7,277
Goods-Producing ²	42,900	40,100	42,100	800	-2,166	3,766
Service-Providing ³	277,700	274,100	277,300	400	-	-
Mining and Logging	17,100	16,600	15,800		65	2,535
Mining	16,800	16,400	15,600	1,200	-	-
Oil and Gas	13,900	13,600	12,900	1,000	-	-
Construction	14,900	14,300	13,200	1,700	187	3,213
Manufacturing	10,900	9,200	13,100	-2,200	-4,559	159
Wholesale Trade	5,900	5,900	6,000	-100	-439	239
Retail Trade	34,200	34,800	34,000	200	-584	984
Food and Beverage Stores	6,100	6,100	6,000	100	-	-
General Merchandise Stores	9,600	9,800	9,600	0	-	-
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	20,500	20,300	19,600	900	66	1,734
Air Transportation	5,400	5,500	5,500	-100	-	-
Information	6,100	6,000	6,200	-100	-375	175
Telecommunications	3,900	3,900	4,100	-200	-	-
Financial Activities	13,000	12,900	13,100	-100	-967	767
Professional and Business Services	27,800	27,000	27,400	400	-956	1,756
Educational⁴ and Health Services	47,400	47,000	46,000	1,400	265	2,535
Health Care	33,400	33,400	32,500	900	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	28,500	27,800	28,400	100	-2,569	2,769
Other Services	11,300	11,200	11,300	0	-821	821
Government	83,000	81,200	85,300	-2,300	-	-
Federal Government ⁵	14,900	14,800	16,100	-1,200	-	-
State Government ⁶	25,400	24,500	26,400	-1,000	-	-
State Government Education ⁷	7,400	6,600	8,700	-1,300	-	-
Local Government	42,700	41,900	42,800	-100	-	-
Local Government Education ⁸	24,300	23,600	25,100	-800	-	-
Tribal Government	3,400	3,400	3,400	0	-	-

A dash means confidence intervals aren't available at this level.

¹Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers. For estimates of fish harvesting employment and other fisheries data, go to labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm.

²Goods-producing sectors include natural resources and mining, construction, and manufacturing.

³Service-providing sectors include all others not listed as goods-producing sectors.

⁴Private education only

⁵Excludes uniformed military

⁶This number is not a count of state government positions, but the number of people who worked during any part of the pay period that included the 12th of the month (the same measure used for all employment numbers in this table). The numbers can vary significantly from month to month; when attempting to identify trends, annual averages are more useful.

⁷Includes the University of Alaska. Variations in academic calendars from year to year occasionally create temporarily large over-the-year changes.

⁸Includes public school systems. Variations in academic calendars from year to year occasionally create temporarily large over-the-year changes.

Sources for Exhibits 1, 2, and 3: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

3 Unemployment Rates

Boroughs and census areas

	Prelim. 2/13	Revised 1/13	2/12
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	7.7	7.9	8.3
Alaska Statewide	6.5	6.7	7.1
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	8.1	8.5	8.7
Alaska Statewide	7.2	7.7	8.1
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.9	6.3	6.8
Municipality of Anchorage	5.2	5.5	6.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	8.4	8.9	9.9
Gulf Coast Region	8.6	9.4	9.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough	9.1	9.6	10.6
Kodiak Island Borough	5.1	6.9	5.9
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	11.5	11.9	12.4
Interior Region	7.6	8.3	8.6
Denali Borough	23.0	23.9	25.0
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.4	7.1	7.4
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	12.4	13.3	13.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	16.4	16.8	17.6
Northern Region	9.7	9.6	10.3
Nome Census Area	11.7	12.0	12.2
North Slope Borough	4.8	4.8	5.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	15.6	15.1	16.0
Southeast Region	8.1	8.5	9.0
Haines Borough	12.0	12.1	12.9
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	25.6	25.2	25.9
Juneau, City and Borough of	5.1	5.6	5.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8.2	8.3	9.3
Petersburg Census Area ¹	13.8	15.5	13.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	16.8	17.3	20.2
Sitka, City and Borough of	6.6	7.0	7.0
Skagway, Municipality of	23.7	24.4	28.0
Wrangell, City and Borough of	11.7	12.4	12.3
Yakutat, City and Borough of	13.7	11.2	15.4
Southwest Region	13.2	14.4	12.9
Aleutians East Borough	9.1	12.8	9.5
Aleutians West Census Area	5.3	8.8	4.9
Bethel Census Area	16.4	15.8	16.0
Bristol Bay Borough	9.1	10.3	10.9
Dillingham Census Area	10.2	11.8	10.2
Lake and Peninsula Borough	10.8	11.6	11.7
Wade Hampton Census Area	23.2	22.6	22.1

Employer Resources

Fidelity bonding helps job seekers as well as employers

Fidelity bonding is a form of insurance that allows employers to hire from a larger pool of qualified applicants without putting themselves at financial risk. Obtaining this free bond allows the employer to focus on a worker's skills and productivity while being protected from potential worker dishonesty on the job.

There is no paperwork for the employer or the prospective employee to complete. The bonds are issued in increments of \$5,000 and provide six months of insurance coverage, with larger bonds issued on a case-by-case basis. Employers may also use bonding to promote a current employee to a more responsible position without exposing the company to risk.

Bonding is a reemployment tool that removes a significant barrier for applicants who may otherwise have a difficult time getting a job. Eligible individuals include

ex-offenders, former addicts, those with poor credit or a history of bankruptcy, those with dishonorable discharges from the military, and economically disadvantaged people who lack a work history.

The Fidelity Bonding Program is administered by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It began as a federal program in 1966, and states began administering their own programs in 1998. The program coordinator issues fidelity bonds from Travelers Property Casualty at no cost to the employer or the job seeker.

Employers seeking bonding insurance can call their closest Alaska Job Center. To find the nearest job center, go to jobs.alaska.gov/offices/ or call (877) 724-2539. For more information about the program, visit the Fidelity Bonding Web site at labor.alaska.gov/bonding.

Safety Minute

A few adjustments to work posture can make a big difference

Spending the better part of your day behind a desk working at a computer can be painful if not done properly. Re-viewing your work station setup takes just a few minutes but can alleviate hours of agony. Ensure that:

- Hands, wrists, and forearms are straight, in line, and roughly parallel to the floor.
- Head is level or bent slightly forward, forward facing, and balanced. Generally it should be in line with the torso.
- Shoulders are relaxed and upper arms hang normally at the side of the body.
- Elbows stay close to the body and are bent between 90 and 120 degrees.
- Feet are fully supported by the floor or a footrest, if the desk height is not adjustable.
- Back is fully supported with appropriate lumbar support when sitting vertical or leaning back slightly.
- Thighs and hips are supported by a well-padded

seat and generally parallel to the floor.

- Knees are at about the same height as the hips with the feet slightly forward.

Once you have correct working posture, it's also important to change positions and move around frequently during the day.

- Make small adjustments to your chair or back rest.
- Stretch your fingers, hands, arms, and torso.
- Stand up and walk around for a few minutes periodically.

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Training can provide additional help identifying workplace hazards and implementing solutions. Contact us at (907) 269-4955.

Source: Federal OSHA Computer Workstations eTool