

TRENDS

Tony Knowles, Governor

State of Alaska

Alaska Department of Labor

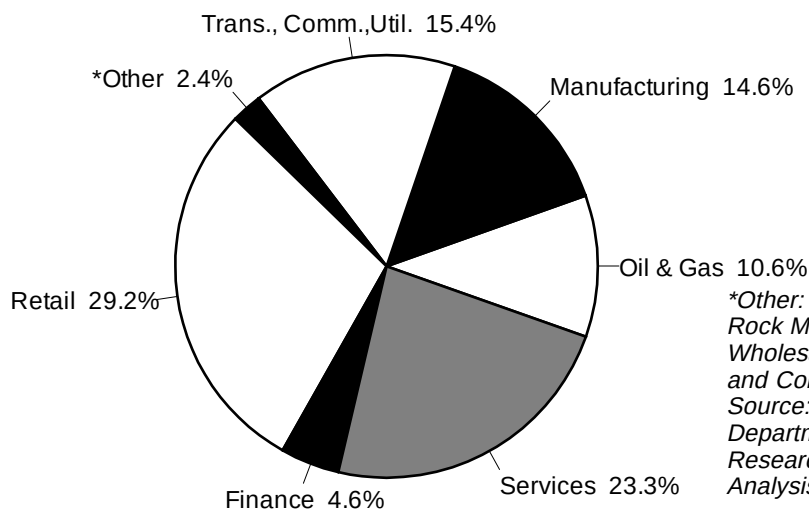
The *Trends* 100:

ALASKA'S LARGEST PRIVATE EMPLOYERS— 1997

BY NEAL FRIED AND BRIGITTA WINDISCH-COLE

After its explosive growth of the early to mid-1990s, the retail industry apparently is taking a breather. Nevertheless, in 1997, Alaska's retailers still employed nearly 30 percent of all Trends 100 workers, providing the single largest piece of this employment pie.

Retail Employment Dominates Among *Trends* 100 Group



*Other: Includes Hard Rock Mining, Wholesale Trade, and Construction.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

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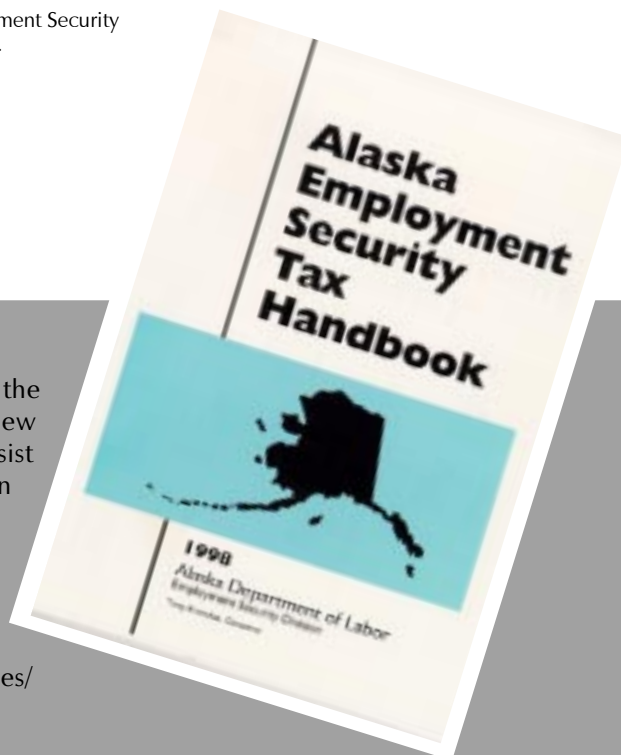
This publication, funded by the Department of Labor's Employment Security Division, was produced at a cost of \$.70 per copy.

*Printed and distributed by ASSETS,
a vocational training center and
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New Employer Tax Handbook Available

The *Alaska Employment Security Tax Handbook* is now available from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Tax section. The new *Handbook* contains Employment Security Tax information that will assist employers, accountants, and bookkeepers. Information is presented in an easy-to-read format, with a detailed index. The *Handbook* will automatically be sent to all new employers. Others can request a copy by writing to Employment Security Tax, P.O. Box 25509, Juneau, Alaska, 99802-5509, or telephone (907) 465-2757, or by email at ESD_TAX@labor.state.ak.us. The *Handbook* is also available in PDF on the Internet at http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/LABOR/esd_tax_handbook/taxbook.htm.

The *Employment Security Tax Handbook* updates and replaces "Chapter Four" of the larger, now out-of-print 1994/1995 *Alaska Employer Handbook*, which additionally contains information on personnel practices and meeting legal obligations as an employer. The complete *Alaska Employer Handbook* will be available soon on the Internet.



The Trends 100: Alaska's Largest Private Employers—1997

For the seventh year in a row, Carr Gottstein Foods, a grocery chain, remains Alaska's single largest private sector employer. Carr's 1997 employment was down slightly from the previous year, however, with 3,192 workers. (See Exhibit 2.) Providence Alaska Medical Center again placed as runner-up. Given its present rate of growth, Providence Alaska could top the list in the near future. In 1996, Providence's workforce was 1,000 smaller than Carr's, but recent growth and acquisitions have narrowed the difference to 350. The rest of Alaska's Trends 100 fall into another league. The third largest employer, Fred Meyer, has nearly a thousand fewer employees.

The 1,000+ club

In 1997, 11 of Alaska's private businesses employed over 1,000 workers—one business fewer than in 1996. Two employers, BP Alaska and Alaska Petroleum contractors, fell off the 1,000+ list, but Safeway Stores joined the top club when its employment reached 1,044 in 1997. Outside of these changes, the list of the state's very largest employers has remained relatively stable over the years. Of the top 10 current employers, seven were in this group a decade ago. (See Exhibit 4.)

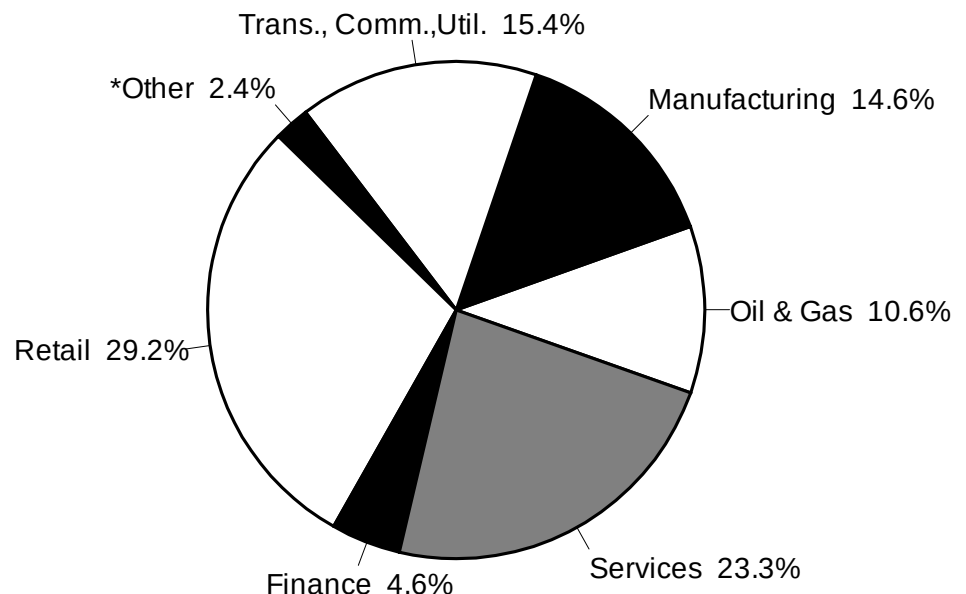
Seven new employers join the list

In spite of the relative stability of the Trends 100 list, seven new firms made the list in 1997. (See Exhibit 6.) They represent an eclectic group

of industries. Some are relative newcomers to the Alaska scene, such as the Fairbanks Gold Mining Company, which runs the Fort Knox mine. This mine operated for its first full year in 1997 but is already the second largest hard rock mining employer in the state. Other firms, such as Doyon Drilling, Piping Design Services, Royal Highway Tours and Southcentral Foundation, have grown enough over the years to

find a place on the 1997 list. Growth in tourism boosted Royal Highway Tours; increased oil industry activity benefited Doyon Drilling and Piping Design Services; and privatization of health care increased work for the Southcentral Foundation. Another firm, Space Mark, which provides contract services to many federal installations, has recently won a number of large contracts.

Retail Employment Dominates Among Trends 100 Group



*Other: Includes Hard Rock Mining, Wholesale Trade, and Construction.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Alaska's 100 Largest Private Employers 1997



Rank/Firm Name	Employment	Headquarters or Largest Work Site	Business Activity
1 Carr Gottstein Foods	3,192	Anchorage	Grocery
2 Providence Alaska Medical Center	2,844	Anchorage	Hospital/Medical Center
3 Fred Meyer	1,925	Anchorage	Grocery/General Merchandise
4 ARCO Alaska	1,526	Anchorage	Oil & Gas Production
5 Alaska Airlines	1,449	Anchorage	Air Carrier
6 Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	1,314	Anchorage	General Merchandise
7 VECO	1,188	Anchorage	Oil Field Services/Construction
8 National Bank of Alaska	1,171	Anchorage	Banking
9 Lutheran Health System (former: Fairbanks Memorial Hosp.)	1,114	Fairbanks	Hospital
10 Safeway Stores	1,044	Anchorage	Grocery
11 Trident Seafoods	1,033	Akutan	Seafood Processing
12 Kmart	956	Anchorage	General Merchandise
13 BP Exploration	940	Anchorage	Oil & Gas Production
14 Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	927	Anchorage	Pipeline Transportation
15 Alaska Petroleum Contractors	912	Anchorage	Oilfield Services
16 Federal Express	887	Anchorage	Airfreight/Courier Service
17 First National Bank of Anchorage	801	Anchorage	Banking
18 Peak Oilfield Service Company	766	Anchorage	Oilfield Services
19 UniSea	759	Dutch Harbor	Seafood Processing
20 Alaska Regional Hospital (former: Columbia AK Regional Hosp.)	749	Anchorage	Hospital
21 Laidlaw Transit	726	Anchorage	School/Charter Bus Company
22 Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	722	Anchorage	Credit Union
23 Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	689	Bethel	Health Care
24 Tyson Seafood Company	678	Kodiak	Seafood Processing
25 Sears Roebuck	666	Anchorage	General Merchandise
26 ERA Aviation	655	Anchorage	Air Carrier
27 Union Oil of California (Unocal)	653	Anchorage	Petroleum Products
28 Spenard Builders Supply	609	Anchorage	Trade: Lumber Products
29 GCI Communications	609	Anchorage	Telephone Communications
30 Peter Pan Seafoods	578	King Cove	Seafood Processing
31 Cook Inlet Processing	576	Nikiski	Seafood Processing
32 Alaska Commercial Company	573	Anchorage	Grocery/General Merchandise
33 ATT/Alascom	562	Anchorage	Telephone Communications
34 Icicle Seafoods	558	Petersburg	Seafood Processing
35 Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation	558	Juneau	Health Care
36 Tanana Chiefs Conference	557	Fairbanks	Social Services/Health Care
37 Aramark Leisure Services	549	Denali Park	Catering/Concessionaire
38 North Pacific Processors	549	Kodiak	Seafood Processing
39 Westmark Hotels	542	Anchorage	Hotel
40 J C Penney Company	530	Anchorage	Department Store
41 HC Price	529	Fairbanks	Pipeline Service/Construction
42 Anchorage Daily News	522	Anchorage	Newspaper
43 Alyeska Resort	519	Girdwood	Hotel/Resort
44 Costco	508	Anchorage	General Merchandise
45 Pizza Hut	494	Anchorage	Eating Establishment
46 Ogden Facility Management of Alaska	481	Anchorage	Facilities Management
47 Ocean Beauty Seafoods	439	Kodiak	Seafood Processing
48 Burger King	437	Anchorage	Eating Establishment
49 NANA/Marriott, Joint Venture	433	Anchorage	Catering/Hotel
50 Valley Hospital	427	Palmer	Hospital
51 Sky Chefs	423	Anchorage	Catering
52 Ketchikan Pulp Company (pulp mill closed 3/1997)	418	Ketchikan	Pulp & Lumber Products

Alaska's 100 Largest Private Employers 1997

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Rank/Firm Name	Employment	Headquarters or Largest Work Site	Business Activity
53 Norquest Seafood Company	414	Ketchikan	Seafood Processing
54 Wards Cove Packing Company	412	Naknek	Seafood Processing
55 Norton Sound Health Corporation	412	Nome	Health Care
56 Denali Foods/Taco Bell	399	Anchorage	Eating Establishment
57 Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	383	Denali Park	Hotel
58 United Parcel Service (UPS)	383	Anchorage	Airfreight/Courier Service
59 Maniilaq Association	379	Kotzebue	Social Services/Health Care
60 Salvation Army - Alaska	375	Anchorage	Social Services
61 Cominco Alaska	370	Red Dog Mine	Mining
62 Chugach Electric Association	368	Anchorage	Utility Company
63 Hope Cottages	364	Anchorage	Residential Care
64 Captain Cook Hotel	360	Anchorage	Hotel
65 Sea-Land Freight Service	357	Anchorage	Shipping & Warehouse
66 International Seafoods of Alaska	352	Kodiak	Seafood Processing
67 Nabors Drilling	352	Anchorage	Oilfield Services/Drilling
68 McDonalds	352	Anchorage	Eating Establishment
69 Tesoro Northstore Company (7-11)	350	Anchorage	Retail/Gas Station
70 Peninsula Airways	346	Anchorage	Air Carrier
71 Williams, Inc. (Alaskan and Proud)	342	Ketchikan	Grocery
72 Reeve Aleutian Airways	336	Anchorage	Air Carrier
73 Dynair Services	335	Anchorage	Airport Services
74 Chugach North Technical Services	335	Anchorage	Personnel Services
75 Silver Bay Logging	334	Juneau	Logging
76 Doyon/Universal Ogden, Joint Venture	333	Anchorage	Catering/Security
77 ASSETS	332	Anchorage	Residential Employment Svcs.
78 Anchorage Hilton Hotel	330	Anchorage	Hotel
79 Lamonts Apparel	328	Anchorage	Apparel
80 Mapco Express	328	Anchorage	Retail/Gas Station
81 Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	325	Dillingham	Health Care
82 Schlumberger Technologies	322	Anchorage	Oilfield Services
83 Matanuska Telephone Association	322	Palmer	Telephone Communications
84 Nordstrom	321	Anchorage	Department Store
85 Westward Seafood	311	Unalaska	Seafood Processing
86 Ketchikan General Hospital	307	Ketchikan	Hospital
87 Thrifty Payless (sold to: Rite Aid in 1998)	306	Anchorage	General Merchandise
88 Northwest Airlines	299	Anchorage	Air Carrier
89 Space Mark	295	Anchorage	Facilities Management
90 Rural Alaska Community Action Program	286	Anchorage	Social Services
91 Westours Motorcoaches	271	Fairbanks	Tour Buses
92 Piping Design Services	266	Anchorage	Engineering Services
93 Royal Highway Tours	265	Anchorage	Tour Buses
94 Southcentral Foundation	263	Anchorage	Health Care Services
95 Anchorage Cold Storage Company	261	Anchorage	Wholesale: Grocery
96 Alaska Sales and Service	256	Anchorage	Car Dealership
97 Doyon Drilling	251	Anchorage	Oilfield Services/Drilling
98 Fairbanks Gold Mining Company (Ft. Knox)	250	Fairbanks	Hard Rock Mining/Gold
99 Omni Enterprises	246	Anchorage	Grocery
100 Sheraton Anchorage Hotel	240	Anchorage	Hotel

Total Trends 100 Employment

58,990

*Note: Based on 1997 average employment. Firms with identical employment ranked by unrounded employment.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.*

	1997 Employment		1997 Employment
MINING		Communications & Utilities (cont.)	
Hard Rock Mining		Chugach Electric Association	368
Cominco Alaska	370	Matanuska Telephone Association	322
Fairbanks Gold Mining Company (Ft. Knox)	250	Other Transportation	
Oil & Gas		Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	927
ARCO Alaska	1,526	Laidlaw Transit	726
VECO	1,188	Sea-Land Freight Service	357
BP Exploration	940	Westours Motorcoaches	271
Alaska Petroleum Contractors	912	Royal Highway Tours	265
Peak Oilfield Service Company	766		
Nabors Drilling	352	TRADE	
Schlumberger Technologies	322	Eating & Drinking	
Doyon Drilling	251	Aramark Leisure Services	549
		Pizza Hut	494
CONSTRUCTION		Burger King	437
HC Price	529	NANA/Marriott, Joint Venture	433
		Sky Chefs	423
MANUFACTURING		Denali Foods/Taco Bell	399
Seafood Processing		McDonalds	352
Trident Seafoods	1,033	Doyon/Universal Ogden, Joint Venture	333
UniSea	759	Other Retail	
Tyson Seafood Company	678	Carr Gottstein Foods	3,192
Peter Pan Seafood	578	Fred Meyer	1,925
Cook Inlet Processing	576	Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	1,314
Icicle Seafoods	558	Safeway Stores	1,044
North Pacific Processors	549	Kmart	956
Ocean Beauty Seafoods	439	Sears Roebuck	666
Norquest Seafood Company	414	Spenard Builders Supply	609
Wards Cove Packing Company	412	Alaska Commercial Company	573
International Seafoods of Alaska	352	J C Penney Company	530
Westward Seafood	311	Costco	508
Wood Products		Tesoro Northstore Company (7-11)	350
Ketchikan Pulp Company (closed 3/1997)	418	Williams, Inc. (Alaskan and Proud)	342
Silver Bay Logging	334	Mapco Express	328
Other Manufacturing		Lamonts Apparel	328
Union Oil of California (Unocal)	653	Nordstrom	321
Anchorage Daily News	522	Thrifty Payless (sold to: Rite Aid in 1998)	306
		Alaska Sales and Service	256
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES		Omni Enterprises	246
Air Transportation		Wholesale	
Alaska Airlines	1,449	Anchorage Cold Storage Company	261
Federal Express	887		
ERA Aviation	655	FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	
United Parcel Service (UPS)	383	National Bank of Alaska	1,171
Peninsula Airways	346	First National Bank of Anchorage	801
Reeve Aleutian Airways	336	Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	722
Dynair Services	335		
Northwest Airlines	299	SERVICES	
Communications & Utilities		Hotels	
GCI Communications	609	Westmark Hotels	542
ATT/Alascom	562	Alyeska Resort	519

	1997 Employment		1997 Employment
Hotels (cont.)		Health Care (cont.)	
Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	383	Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	325
Captain Cook Hotel	360	Ketchikan General Hospital	307
Anchorage Hilton Hotel	330	Southcentral Foundation	263
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel	240	Other Services	
Personnel Services		Tanana Chiefs Conference	557
Chugach North Technical Services	335	Ogden Facility Management of Alaska	481
Health Care		Salvation Army - Alaska	375
Providence Alaska Medical Center	2,844	Hope Cottages	364
Lutheran Health System		ASSETS	332
(former: Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	1,114	Space Mark	295
Alaska Regional Hospital		Rural Alaska Community Action Program	286
(former: Columbia AK Regional Hospital)	749	Piping Design Services	266
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	689	<i>Note: Based on 1997 average employment. Firms with identical employment ranked by unrounded employment.</i> <i>Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.</i>	
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation	558		
Valley Hospital	427		
Norton Sound Health Corporation	412		
Maniilaq Association	379		

Comparing the "Top Ten" Over the Past Decade

4

Rank Top 10 Employers in 1997

- 1 Carr Gottstein Foods
- 2 Providence Alaska Medical Center
- 3 Fred Meyer
- 4 ARCO Alaska
- 5 Alaska Airlines
- 6 Wal-Mart/Sam's Club
- 7 VECO
- 8 National Bank of Alaska
- 9 Lutheran Health System
(former: Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)
- 10 Safeway Stores

Rank Top 10 Employers in 1987

- 1 ARCO Alaska
- 2 Carr-Gottstein
- 3 Providence Hospital
(now: Providence Alaska Medical Center)
- 4 BP Exploration
- 5 Lutheran Hospital & Homes Society, Fbks
(now: Lutheran Health System)
- 6 VECO
- 7 Safeway Stores
- 8 Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
- 9 Alascom (now: ATT/Alascom)
- 10 National Bank of Alaska

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

The big movers are a diverse group this year

No particular trend describes companies that have climbed by 10 or more rankings. (See Exhibit 7.) Two are tourism-related businesses—Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels) and Aramark Leisure Services. Alaska Hotel Properties opened the new McKinley View Lodge near Talkeetna in 1997. Three of the big movers are seafood processing companies operating in Kodiak. These plants may have taken up some of the capacity lost at the fire-damaged Tyson plant, which was only partially operational in 1997. Aggressive growth propelled GCI ahead by 15 spots in the line-up. Peak Oilfield Services benefited from new life in Alaska's oil patch. Strong growth in the airline industry helped two other big movers—Sky Chefs, which caters meals to airlines, and Dynair, which provides a variety of services to airlines.

The *Trends* 100 employ many people and pay well

Alaska's largest employers employ nearly 59,000 wage and salary workers, or 30 percent of all private sector wage and salary employees. In 1997, employment at the state's largest enterprises grew by 2.5%, slightly stronger than the overall employment growth rate of 1.8%. Stronger performance from the *Trends* 100 has been more the norm than the exception since 1985 when this list was first compiled. Helping sustain growth in 1997 was a lack of downsizing activity among the state's largest employers.

In 1997, these employers paid out nearly \$2.2 billion in wages. The *Trends* 100 paid an average annual wage of \$37,242 compared to an average of \$28,113 for the remaining private sector. The strong presence of the high-wage oil industry explains much of the wage advantage. The average wage for oil industry jobs

among the *Trends* 100 was \$87,693. Nearly 11 percent of the employment for the state's biggest employers is oil industry related versus four percent of the workforce for the entire private sector.

Native organizations are well represented

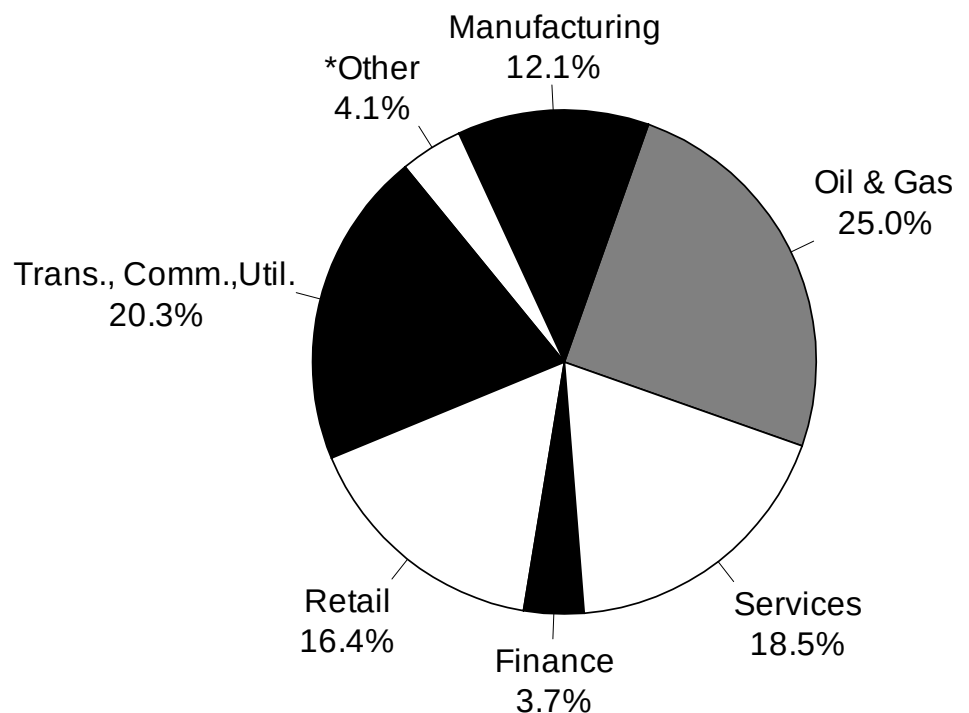
Thirteen of the *Trends* 100 employers are either Native Alaskan nonprofit organizations or subsidiaries of one of Alaska's regional Native corporations. (See Exhibit 8.) Because this list represents individual firms regardless of ownership, the role of regional Native corporations in the state's labor market is often partially concealed.

If subsidiaries of the regional corporations were combined, most of their parent corporations would appear in the *Trends* 100. Despite this definitional limitation, their representation is significant.

The largest firm in this grouping is Alaska Petroleum Contractors, a wholly owned subsidiary for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. It is the 15th largest private sector employer in the state, with 912 employees. It has remained on this list for a decade. Two other oil field services companies in this group are Doyon Drilling, a wholly owned subsidiary of Doyon Regional Corporation, and Peak Oilfield Services, which is partially owned by Cook Inlet Region Incorporated. In addition, Doyon/

Oil and Gas Employees Earn Biggest Share of *Trends* 100 Payroll

5



*Other: Includes Hard Rock Mining, Wholesale Trade, and Construction.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Universal Ogden JV and Nana Marriott JV both provide services in the oil fields and other locations.

Nonprofits are big employers

Fifteen nonprofits are among the state's largest employers. (See Exhibit 9.) In fact, they employ 15 percent of this workforce. Their representation grew in 1997 with the addition of Southcentral Foundation. Most of these nonprofits provide health care or, as at Maniilaq Association, a combination of health care and social services. A few are also advocacy organizations. Most of the nonprofits rely heavily on public sector revenues to operate.

The dominance of health care helps explain why these nonprofits are often the largest or second largest employers in their respective communities. Providence Alaska Medical Center, for example, is not only the second largest employer in the state, but it is also Anchorage's largest employer. Other examples include the Norton Sound Health Corporation (Kotzebue), Bristol Bay Health Corporation (Dillingham), Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (Bethel), Fairbanks Memorial Hospital (Fairbanks) and Valley Hospital (Palmer). Health care provides lots of jobs partly because it is a labor-intensive industry that provides around-the-clock and year-around service.

The prominence of nonprofits on this list will expand as government increasingly turns to these organizations to provide services. One example of this trend is the imminent turnover of the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage to groups of nonprofit health organizations. Presently, nearly all of its 1,400 workers are federal government employees. Eventually, these workers will be employees of one nonprofit or a consortium of nonprofits. In fact, one of the reasons the Southcentral Health Foundation made the list in 1997 was because it

Trends 100 Newcomers

6

Doyon Drilling
Fairbanks Gold Mining Company
Omni Enterprises
Piping Design Services
Royal Highway Tours
Southcentral Foundation
Space Mark

Source: Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Trends 100 Movers

Firms moving up 10 or more
ranks from 1996

7

Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)
Aramark Leisure Services
Cook Inlet Processing
Denali Foods/Taco Bell
Dynair
GCI Communications
International Seafoods of Alaska
North Pacific Processors
Peak Oilfield Services
Sky Chefs

Source: Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

had already taken over some of the responsibilities of the Alaska Native Medical Center.

The rest of the service companies

More than half of the employment in services comes from the already mentioned nonprofit health care sector. (See Exhibit 3.) The only health care provider not included among the nonprofits is Alaska Regional Hospital, a for-profit company. Outside of health care, the big players in services are hotels. With the present boom in hotel construction, new hotels are likely to find their way onto this list in the near future.

Many of Alaska's top employers are *Fortune 500* companies

A little over a quarter of Alaska's largest employers also share the rarified company of the nation's *Fortune 500* companies. (See Exhibit 10.) They vary from ARCO Alaska to Burger King to Tyson Seafood Group to Costco. In the previous *Trends 100* listing, there were 28 of these companies versus 27 in 1997. Key Bank fell off the *Trends 100* list in 1997.

Most oil industry employers are in the *Trends 100*

Unlike any other industry, nearly all of the oil industry employers in the state are represented on this list. In 1997, over 78 percent of all oil industry employees were working for one of the state's largest private sector employers. Even though oil industry employment dipped in 1997, its concentration of large employers did not. As a capital-intensive industry, it generally favors both large-producer and service companies. This trend is not expected to change.

Thirteen of the *Trends* 100 Firms are Fully or Partially Owned or Operated by Alaska Native Corporations or Organizations

8

Alaska Petroleum Contractors	912
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	325
Doyon/Universal Ogden, Joint Venture	333
Doyon Drilling	251
Maniilaq Association	379
Nana Marriott, Joint Venture	433
Norton Sound Health Corporation	412
Peak Oilfield Service Company	766
Southcentral Foundation	263
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp.	558
Space Mark	295
Tanana Chiefs Conference	557
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	689

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

Nonprofit Organizations Employ Over 15 Percent of the *Trends 100* Workforce

9

Providence Alaska Medical Center	2,844
Lutheran Health System	1,114
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp.	558
Tanana Chiefs Conference	557
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	689
Valley Hospital	427
Norton Sound Health Corporation	412
Maniilaq Association	379
Salvation Army - Alaska	375
Hope Cottages	364
ASSETS	332
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	325
Ketchikan General Hospital	307
Rural Alaska Community Action Program	286
Southcentral Foundation	263

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

Retail's list is long

In 1997, the state's retailers employed nearly 30 percent of all *Trends* 100 workers, providing the single largest piece of this employment pie. (See Exhibit 1.) Unlike the past three to four years, their representation did not grow in 1997. Apparently the industry is taking a temporary breather after its explosive growth of the early to mid-1990s. Retail's impact on payroll is significantly smaller than its impact on employment. Only 16 percent of the *Trends* 100 payroll comes from retail. (See Exhibit 5.) Low wages and a preponderance of part-time employment reduce retailers' contributions to payroll. (Retail includes eating and drinking establishments.) Moreover, although retailers provide many of the jobs represented by the *Trends* 100, nearly two-thirds of retail employment comes from smaller firms. For example, in 1997, the nearly 3,500 retailers in the state who did not make this list provided the bulk of the industry's employment.

Manufacturing is well represented

Although manufacturing, with just eight percent of Alaska's private wage and salary workforce, is one of the state's smaller employers, manufacturers employ 15 percent of the *Trends* 100 workforce. Twelve of the 16 manufacturing firms were seafood processing companies, one less than on the 1996 list. The two timber firms were unchanged from previous years. However, next year, Ketchikan Pulp Company may not make the list due to the closure of its pulp operation in early 1997.

Alaska's Trends 100 That Are Also America's Fortune 500

10

ARCO Alaska
ATT/Alascom
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Aramark Leisure Services
Alaska Regional Health Corp.
Burger King
Costco
Federal Express
Fred Meyer
J C Penney
Kmart
Mapco Express
McDonalds
Nana/Marriott, Joint Venture
Nordstrom
Northwest Airlines
Pizza Hut
Safeway Stores
Sea-Land Freight Service
Sears Roebuck
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
Taco Bell
Thrifty Payless
Tyson Seafood Group
Union Oil of California (Unocal)
United Parcel Service (UPS)
Wal-Mart/Sam's Club

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

Employment in all of the airlines grew

Alaska Airlines was one of seven airlines that made 1997's list of 100 largest employers. All of the *Trends* 100 airlines added employment in 1997, so a majority of them also moved up the list. This result is not surprising, given the present dynamics of this industry.

The financial group loses one

For the first time since 1989, financial institutions on the *Trends* 100 list changed. Key Bank's downsizing dropped it off the list entirely. Two banks and one credit union, National Bank of Alaska, First National Bank of Anchorage and Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, still remain on the list of the state's largest employers.

Trends 100 employers are ubiquitous in Alaska

Even though nearly two-thirds of the *Trends* 100 employers have their largest work site or headquarters in Anchorage, fewer than 15 operate exclusively in the state's largest city. For example, National Bank of Alaska is headquartered in Anchorage but has branches in 28 other communities around the state. Alaska's largest employers can be found in all regions and sizes of communities. None of the 12 fish processors, nor either of the two timber firms, is based in Anchorage. Akutan, a small community in the Aleutian Islands, hosts Trident Seafood Corporation's largest processing plant.

Alaska's Top 10 Employers Including the Public Sector



Rank	Name of Organization	1997 Employment	Headquarters or Largest Worksite
1	Federal government	17,339	Anchorage
2	State of Alaska	15,791	Juneau
3	University of Alaska	5,434	Fairbanks
4	Anchorage School District	5,248	Anchorage
5	Municipality of Anchorage	3,553	Anchorage
6	Carr Gottstein Foods	3,192	Anchorage
7	Providence Alaska Medical Center	2,844	Anchorage
8	Fred Meyer	1,925	Anchorage
9	Fairbanks North Star School Dist.	1,706	Fairbanks
10	ARCO Alaska	1,526	Anchorage

Source: Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Top 10 changes when including the public sector

When the public sector is included, the list of the state's largest employers changes dramatically. (See Exhibit 11.) With this change, only four private sector employers rank in the Top Ten: Carr Gottstein Foods, Providence Alaska Medical Center, Fred Meyer and ARCO Alaska. This result should not be surprising, since 27 percent of the state's workforce is employed in the public sector, and public sector organizations tend to be large. Therefore, the public sector,

including the federal government, state government, the university, the Anchorage School District and the Municipality of Anchorage, heads this list. As the public sector's share of the workforce continues to decline, however, private sector employers are becoming a stronger force in Alaska's economy.

Alaska's Economy Heats Up

Alaska Employment Scene

BY BRIGITTA WINDISCH-COLE

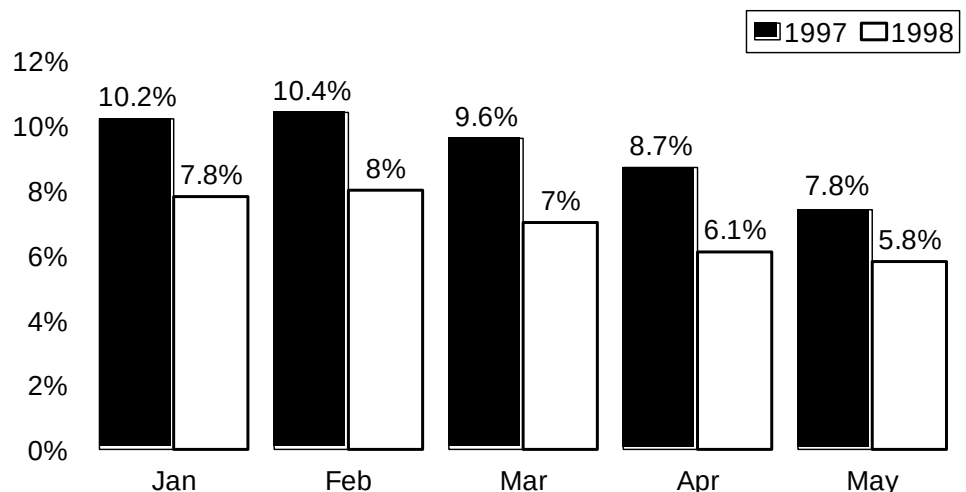
Alaska's unemployment rate in May was the lowest rate for that month in over 25 years. This is the fifth consecutive month that the unemployment rate continued to register significantly below the unemployment rate of one year ago. At 5.8%, this May's unemployment rate demonstrated a strong improvement over last year's 7.8%. (See Exhibit 1.) Fewer than 18,500 Alaskans were jobless compared to nearly 24,350 a year ago. In Anchorage alone, the number of unemployed fell by 1,750. This May, Anchorage's unemployment rate matched the 4.2% U.S. civilian not seasonally adjusted jobless rate. (See Exhibit 5.)

Alaska's economy continued to add jobs, with 3,500 more jobs than in May of 1997. Services, transportation and retail, which all cater to the visitor industry, added the most jobs. Three hotels opened in Anchorage this year, with a strong tourism season on the horizon. Holland America and Princess Tours will bring record numbers of cruise visitors to the state.

In addition to traditional ports of call in Southeast and Seward, cruise stops will include Kodiak, Homer and Anchorage on some itineraries. As Alaska's visitor industry expands, new sightseeing areas are being developed. These include a north entrance to Denali National Park, improved access to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and new visitor destinations on the west side of Cook Inlet. Last year, according to Alaska's Division of Tourism, visitors spent nearly \$1 billion in the state, and this year the billion-dollar mark could be surpassed.

The Positive Trend of the State's Unemployment Rate Continues

1



Source: Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

2 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska

	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	Changes from:		
			5/97	4/98	5/97
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	276,100	266,400	272,600	9,700	3,500
Goods-producing	38,000	36,200	38,200	1,800	-200
Service-producing	238,100	230,200	234,400	7,900	3,700
Mining	10,300	10,200	9,900	100	400
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,700	8,600	8,300	100	400
Construction	13,200	10,800	13,200	2,400	0
Manufacturing	14,500	15,200	15,100	-700	-600
Durable Goods	2,900	2,700	3,200	200	-300
Lumber & Wood Products	1,600	1,600	2,100	0	-500
Nondurable Goods	11,600	12,500	11,900	-900	-300
Seafood Processing	8,900	9,700	9,200	-800	-300
Transportation	25,800	24,000	24,700	1,800	1,100
Trucking & Warehousing	2,900	2,800	2,900	100	0
Water Transportation	2,300	2,100	2,200	200	100
Air Transportation	8,800	8,400	8,300	400	500
Communications	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	2,400	2,300	2,200	100	200
Trade	57,500	54,000	56,600	3,500	900
Wholesale Trade	8,800	8,600	8,900	200	-100
Retail Trade	48,700	45,400	47,700	3,300	1,000
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,200	8,800	9,000	400	200
Food Stores	7,000	6,800	7,100	200	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	16,800	15,300	16,300	1,500	500
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	12,300	12,000	12,200	300	100
Services & Misc.	68,400	65,200	66,500	3,200	1,900
Hotels & Lodging Places	7,000	5,700	6,800	1,300	200
Business Services	8,900	8,400	8,700	500	200
Health Services	15,200	15,100	14,800	100	400
Legal Services	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0
Social Services	7,200	7,200	7,000	0	200
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	7,500	7,500	7,300	0	200
Government	74,100	75,000	74,400	-900	-300
Federal	17,300	16,800	17,600	500	-300
State	20,800	22,200	20,900	-1,400	-100
Local	36,000	36,000	35,900	0	100

Municipality of Anchorage

	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	Changes from:		
			5/97	4/98	5/97
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	128,100	124,800	124,800	3,300	3,300
Goods-producing	11,700	10,300	11,100	1,400	600
Service-producing	116,400	114,500	113,700	1,900	2,700
Mining	2,700	2,700	2,400	0	300
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,500	2,500	2,300	0	200
Construction	7,000	5,600	6,700	1,400	300
Manufacturing	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0
Transportation	12,800	12,400	12,300	400	500
Air Transportation	5,400	5,300	5,000	100	400
Communications	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
Trade	31,400	30,500	30,800	900	600
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,300	6,500	100	-100
Retail Trade	25,000	24,200	24,300	800	700
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,600	4,400	4,600	200	0
Food Stores	2,900	2,900	3,000	0	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	9,000	8,700	8,600	300	400
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,200	7,100	7,200	100	0
Services & Misc.	36,700	35,600	35,600	1,100	1,100
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,800	2,700	2,700	100	100
Business Services	6,300	6,200	6,200	100	100
Health Services	7,900	7,800	7,600	100	300
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Social Services	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	5,500	5,300	5,300	200	200
Government	28,300	28,900	27,800	-600	500
Federal	9,800	9,800	9,900	0	-100
State	8,000	8,500	7,900	-500	100
Local	10,500	10,600	10,000	-100	500

Notes to Exhibits 2, 3, 4—Nonagricultural also excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers.

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.

3 Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	5/97	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	5/97	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	5/97
Mining	\$1,395.32	\$1,360.79	\$1,211.25	50.3	49.7	47.5	\$27.74	\$27.38	\$25.50
Construction	1,123.70	1,140.80	1,090.56	42.5	44.2	42.6	26.44	25.81	25.60
Manufacturing	462.28	485.74	500.98	38.3	43.8	43.3	12.07	11.09	11.57
Seafood Processing	317.02	378.56	369.90	35.7	44.8	44.3	8.88	8.45	8.35
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	634.43	640.17	626.85	33.8	33.8	35.0	18.77	18.94	17.91
Trade	415.00	417.58	413.59	33.2	33.3	33.3	12.50	12.54	12.42
Wholesale	627.76	628.84	637.29	38.0	37.7	38.6	16.52	16.68	16.51
Retail	376.62	376.81	371.45	32.3	32.4	32.3	11.66	11.63	11.50
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	544.33	543.67	502.67	35.3	36.1	35.3	15.42	15.06	14.24

p/ denotes preliminary estimates.

r/ denotes revised estimates.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Average hours and earnings estimates are based on data for full-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 1997

4

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Fairbanks

North Star Borough

	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	Changes from:		
			5/97	4/98	5/97
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,950	31,850	32,300	1,100	650
Goods-producing	3,350	2,800	3,450	550	-100
Service-producing	29,600	29,050	28,850	550	750
Mining	1,050	950	1,150	100	-100
Construction	1,750	1,350	1,750	400	0
Manufacturing	550	500	550	50	0
Transportation	3,050	2,700	2,550	350	500
Trucking & Warehousing	550	500	600	50	-50
Air Transportation	750	700	700	50	50
Communications	450	400	250	50	200
Trade	6,800	6,500	6,700	300	100
Wholesale Trade	850	800	850	50	0
Retail Trade	5,950	5,700	5,850	250	100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,250	1,250	1,200	0	50
Food Stores	700	600	750	100	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	2,000	1,850	1,950	150	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,000	1,050	50	0
Services & Misc.	8,300	7,950	8,000	350	300
Hotels & Lodging Places	850	700	800	150	50
Health Services	1,950	1,950	1,900	0	50
Government	10,400	10,900	10,550	-500	-150
Federal	3,400	3,250	3,400	150	0
State	4,000	4,700	3,950	-700	50
Local	3,000	2,950	3,200	50	-200

Southeast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	36,800	34,650	37,200	2,150	-400
Goods-producing	5,100	4,850	5,500	250	-400
Service-producing	31,700	29,800	31,700	1,900	0
Mining	400	350	350	50	50
Construction	1,750	1,600	1,900	150	-150
Manufacturing	2,950	2,900	3,250	50	-300
Durable Goods	1,550	1,450	1,700	100	-150
Lumber & Wood Products	1,300	1,200	1,450	100	-150
Nondurable Goods	1,400	1,450	1,550	-50	-150
Seafood Processing	1,100	1,050	1,150	50	-50
Transportation	3,200	2,600	3,100	600	100
Trade	7,050	6,150	7,150	900	-100
Wholesale Trade	600	600	600	0	0
Retail Trade	6,450	5,550	6,550	900	-100
Food Stores	1,350	1,300	1,400	50	-50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,650	1,550	1,550	100	100
Services & Misc.	7,400	7,050	7,150	350	250
Health Services	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Government	12,400	12,450	12,750	-50	-350
Federal	1,900	1,750	2,000	150	-100
State	5,250	5,400	5,400	-150	-150
Local	5,250	5,300	5,350	-50	-100

Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,250	15,350	15,100	-100	150
Goods-producing	5,250	5,300	5,000	-50	250
Service-producing	10,000	10,050	10,100	-50	-100
Mining	4,800	4,850	4,550	-50	250
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,350	4,400	4,150	-50	200
Government	4,500	4,600	4,700	-100	-200
Federal	200	200	200	0	0
State	300	300	300	0	0
Local	4,000	4,100	4,200	-100	-200

Interior Region

	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	Changes from:		
			5/97	4/98	5/97
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	39,050	36,550	38,600	2,500	450
Goods-producing	3,700	3,050	4,050	650	-350
Service-producing	35,350	33,500	34,550	1,850	800
Mining	1,250	1,100	1,400	150	-150
Construction	1,850	1,400	2,100	450	-250
Manufacturing	600	550	550	50	50
Transportation	3,800	3,200	3,300	600	500
Trade	7,950	7,150	7,800	800	150
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,150	1,100	1,150	50	0
Services & Misc.	9,450	8,800	9,150	650	300
Hotels & Lodging Places	1,250	800	1,200	450	50
Government	13,000	13,250	13,150	-250	-150
Federal	4,100	3,850	4,100	250	0
State	4,300	4,950	4,250	-650	50
Local	4,600	4,450	4,800	150	-200

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	140,100	135,950	136,400	4,150	3,700
Goods-producing	12,750	11,200	12,100	1,550	650
Service-producing	127,350	124,750	124,300	2,600	3,050
Mining	2,700	2,700	2,450	0	250
Construction	7,850	6,300	7,500	1,550	350
Manufacturing	2,200	2,200	2,150	0	50
Transportation	13,950	13,400	13,400	550	550
Trade	34,350	33,250	33,500	1,100	850
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,700	7,650	7,650	50	50
Services & Misc.	39,900	38,500	38,700	1,400	1,200
Government	31,450	31,950	31,050	-500	400
Federal	9,950	9,900	10,100	50	-150
State	8,800	9,300	8,800	-500	0
Local	12,700	12,750	12,150	-50	550

Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,950	18,300	17,850	-350	100
Goods-producing	5,050	5,750	5,100	-700	-50
Service-producing	12,900	12,550	12,750	350	150
Seafood Processing	4,850	5,600	4,900	-750	-50
Government	5,900	5,800	5,900	100	0
Federal	450	400	450	50	0
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	4,950	4,900	4,950	50	0

Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	27,250	25,700	27,500	1,550	-250
Goods-producing	6,350	6,100	6,550	250	-200
Service-producing	20,900	19,600	20,950	1,300	-50
Mining	1,200	1,150	1,150	50	50
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,200	1,100	1,150	100	50
Construction	1,250	950	1,150	300	100
Manufacturing	3,900	4,000	4,250	-100	-350
Seafood Processing	2,900	3,000	3,050	-100	-150
Transportation	2,500	2,400	2,450	100	50
Trade	5,200	4,650	5,250	550	-50
Wholesale Trade	600	550	600	50	0
Retail Trade	4,600	4,100	4,650	500	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	1,600	1,350	1,600	250	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	700	650	750	50	-50
Services & Misc.	5,600	5,100	5,600	500	0
Health Services	1,150	1,100	1,150	50	0
Government	6,900	6,800	6,900	100	0
Federal	750	700	750	50	0
State	1,600	1,600	1,650	0	-50
Local	4,550	4,500	4,500	50	50

Healthy upswing in employment kicks off the season

In a typical seasonal swing, 9,700 jobs were added to the Alaska economy between April and May of this year. Nearly half of these were visitor industry related, with the hotel, restaurant, and transportation industries creating the most. In anticipation of a strong building season, construction industries added 2,400 jobs. (See Exhibit 2.) In addition to the many commercial, industrial and public projects scheduled, residential housing construction was on the rise. Housing starts were up in most areas of the state, including rural places such as Nome, which reported small home building booms.

Some concerns remain

Some manufacturers shed jobs in May, primarily because of depressed Asian markets. Alaska's export/resource industries—timber, seafood, oil and gas, zinc, and gold—all felt the impact of subdued Asian markets. Prices for these commodities fell as global demand slipped. Alaska's timber industry was particularly affected by an unfavorable trade position. A strong U.S. dollar and weak Asian currencies have made Alaska's wood products very expensive for Asian markets. As a result, logging on Afognak (Kodiak) nearly halted, with over 100 workers laid off. Other timber companies that depend on Asian export markets encountered similar difficulties. Those with domestic or local markets were able to operate more normally.

Unocal laid off over 20 workers at its urea (fertilizer) plant in Nikiski. Export woes were one factor the company blamed for the downsizing.

The company made plans to modernize the plant to improve production costs.

Lackluster world demand and a surplus supply of gold put downward pressure on gold prices. So far in 1998, gold has been selling at about \$300 per ounce, a price insufficient to make gold mining profitable in some locations in the state. Both Alaska Gold Company in Nome and the Illinois Creek Mine near Galena will cease operations by fall. Some workers have already been let go. By fall, the loss will climb to over 140 mining jobs.

Not all is negative for Alaska's fisheries

Alaska's fisheries have also been impacted by the Asian economic crisis. Low prices discouraged some fishers from harvesting. A group of the small trawler fleet, usually targeting bottomfish during May, remained tied up in port. In addition, processors saw surimi (fish paste made from groundfish) prices plummet on Asian markets. All this may have contributed to the drop in May's seafood processing employment compared to last year's level. (See Exhibit 2.)

The outlook for seafood employment that can be counted as Alaska employment has improved. Starting in 1999, more Bering Sea/Aleutian Island pollock will be processed on shore. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council voted to shift an additional four percent of the harvest quota from the at-sea processing fleet to shore-site plants. According to industry estimates, on-shore processors will gain a harvest share valued over \$20 million. For Alaska, this means more processing jobs, because the on-shore workers are counted in the state's workforce,

while off-shore processing workers, generally, are not.

Good news also sounded from Alaska's richest herring grounds, the Togiak fishery. The harvest proceeded better than expected, and processors paid fishers higher advances than they did a year ago. This year, herring roe was of very high quality, prompting processors to buy and process the harvest in spite of a soft market. But as often happens in fisheries, not all areas produced a good catch. Fishers in Cook Inlet, for example, could not fully scoop up their quota because there were not enough fish.

The salmon harvest in Alaska started on a positive note in May when the first commercial opening yielded prices that were better than last year's. However, the typically capricious nature of Alaska's salmon fishery would quickly put a damper on early optimism. Early tallies in Bristol Bay indicated that this year's catch would remain way below projections, and subsequent months would confirm these predictions of disaster for this region.

However, in the Copper River region, the salmon fishery in May kicked off with an average catch and good prices. Their harvest volume and prices were to be sustained throughout the season.

Kodiak's salmon fishers started their season in May with an improved initial price from the dismal first offerings of last year's season and are continuing to scoop up a considerable catch. Good prices and a high volume sockeye catch should add up to a successful season for Kodiak salmon fishers.

Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

5

Summary

Seasonal industries such as tourism and construction pushed Alaska's economy into high gear in May. Although seafood-processing employment in May was still two months away from its peak, the first salmon harvests looked promising. Harvest prices improved, and seafood processors started their usual hiring frenzy.

As the season progressed, however, there were signs that not all was well on Alaska's fishing grounds. So far, only Copper River and Kodiak area fishers have delivered or are currently landing good catches. In other fisheries, the long-term outlook seems promising. Regulatory changes in the pollock harvest allocation should result in future increases in seafood processing employment.

Although most of Alaska's export industries felt the pinch stemming from the slump in Asian markets, confidence remained high in Alaska's economy as evidenced by an upbeat residential housing market.

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	p/ 5/98	r/ 4/98	5/97
United States	4.2	4.1	4.7
Alaska Statewide	5.8	6.1	7.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	4.6	4.9	6.4
Municipality of Anchorage	4.2	4.4	5.6
Mat-Su Borough	6.5	7.5	10.4
Gulf Coast Region	9.5	9.5	12.7
Kenai Peninsula Borough	9.0	10.8	12.5
Kodiak Island Borough	12.2	5.3	15.4
Valdez-Cordova	7.4	9.9	9.4
Interior Region	5.9	6.5	8.2
Denali Borough	5.2	7.4	7.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.5	5.8	7.6
Southeast Fairbanks	8.2	11.0	11.5
Yukon-Koyukuk	12.9	14.0	15.9
Northern Region	9.1	7.8	12.3
Nome	10.4	9.2	14.4
North Slope Borough	5.2	4.3	5.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.3	11.0	18.5
Southeast Region	6.1	6.8	7.2
Haines Borough	8.8	11.6	8.7
Juneau Borough	4.6	5.0	5.3
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6.5	7.3	8.9
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	11.0	11.0	14.7
Sitka Borough	4.2	4.8	5.8
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	6.9	8.0	7.1
Wrangell-Petersburg	7.4	9.4	6.3
Yakutat Borough	10.6	15.2	10.1
Southwest Region	8.0	7.0	8.2
Aleutians East Borough	4.1	2.3	3.4
Aleutians West	5.1	4.4	5.8
Bethel	8.1	7.2	9.2
Bristol Bay Borough	3.4	7.0	5.2
Dillingham	7.9	5.9	6.9
Lake & Peninsula Borough	10.9	9.6	7.6
Wade Hampton	15.1	13.4	13.8
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	4.3	4.3	4.8
Alaska Statewide	5.9	5.7	6.9

p/ denotes preliminary estimates

r/ denotes revised estimates

Benchmark: March 1997

Data presented here are intended to show the relative condition of Alaska's labor force for the reference month. Data published for prior years are not necessarily comparable to current information, which does not reflect benchmark revisions.

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 locations, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. These individuals are considered not in the labor force.

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

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convenience of
Trends readers,** the Alaska

Department of Labor is putting *Alaska Economic Trends* on the Internet. The entire magazine is now available to Internet users who would like to access issues back to January 1998.

Internet users will also want to browse for the latest information on Alaska's economy, population and monthly updated employment picture at the Research and Analysis homepage <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/LABOR/research/research.htm> or go to the State of Alaska homepage under *HOT TOPICS* and click on "economic, occupation and population info."