

ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

FEBRUARY 2014



Alaska's Asians and Pacific Islanders

WHAT'S INSIDE

Alaska's nursing assistants and care aides
Winter fisheries less visible, but huge



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor
Dianne Blumer, Commissioner

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February 2014
Volume 34
Number 2
ISSN 0160-3345

To contact *Trends* authors or request a free electronic or print subscription, e-mail trends@alaska.gov or call (907) 465-4500. *Trends* is on the Web at labor.alaska.gov/trends.

Alaska Economic Trends is funded by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It's published by the Research and Analysis Section.

Alaska Economic Trends is printed and distributed by Assets, Inc., a vocational training and employment program, at a cost of \$1.37 per copy.

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Grants, training target needs of a changing workforce



**By Dianne Blumer,
Commissioner**

This month's *Trends* features Alaska's fastest growing racial group: Asians and Pacific Islanders, whose population in the state grew by more than 17,000 between 2000 and 2010. The group includes many distinct languages and cultures from a huge geographic area.

Alaska's Asian community is half Filipino, compared to the nation's 20 percent. About 65 percent of Alaska's Asians and Pacific Islanders live in Alaska's largest city, making up 10 percent of Anchorage's population.

Also in this issue, the demand for nursing assistants and care aides continues to grow as Alaska's population ages, largely due to the so-called baby boomers — the generation born from 1946 to 1964. Between 2000 and 2012, Alaska's population of senior citizens grew a whopping 79 percent.

More than 14,000 Alaskans work as direct service workers, which include certified nurse assistants, home health aides, and personal care aides. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development projects an additional 4,900 jobs in these occupations by 2020 through increased demand and openings created by current workers retiring.

About one in five Alaska jobs requires a four-year degree or higher. Direct service workers fit in with the roughly 80 percent of Alaska jobs that might need some post-secondary education and training but don't require a traditional college degree.

The Alaska Department of Labor invests in workforce development for the "other four" jobs — those important careers that don't require a degree. We recently announced \$6.5 million in state-funded grants to fund training for youth, career and technical education, unemployed-underemployed, and Alaska's oil and gas industry.

The deadline to apply for these grants is Feb. 28. More information is available online at aws.alaska.gov/OnlinePublicNotices or by calling (907) 269-4651. Based on appropriations by the Alaska Legislature, the department will be able to award grants during the first week of June, well ahead of the July 1 start of the state fiscal year.

Gov. Sean Parnell has reinforced his commitment to education for every Alaska student, regardless of career plans. Part of the Parnell Administration's recently announced comprehensive education bill will directly enhance and improve youth employability skills and increase employer satisfaction with Alaska's youth workforce readiness. The legislation would also increase the funding for each K-12 student and give parents more choices for charter and residential schools.

Gov. Parnell recognizes that today's young Alaskans have more choices in a workplace that provides a variety of employment opportunities. The governor's bill would provide continued opportunity and choice to students as they prepare for the workforce.

The bill would reauthorize the Alaska Technical and Vocational Education Program through June 2024 to continue funding educational institutions across Alaska that provide career and technical education. TVEP-funded institutions will partner with school districts to offer dual credit courses to high school students.

The department will also work to provide and support additional avenues for collaborative partnerships between career and technical education training providers and school districts across the state.

These partnerships between traditional and new generation education are a key part of our department's role in Alaska, as we help our trainers and school districts prepare our young people for the Alaska of the future.



Alaska's Asians and Pacific Islanders

A look at the state's fastest-growing racial group

People of Asian and Pacific Islander descent form the fastest-growing racial group in Alaska, expanding by 60 percent between 2000 and 2010 — a gain of more than 17,000 people. (See Exhibit 1.)

Pacific Islanders by themselves grew at an even faster rate, more than doubling in population during the same 10-year span.

As of 2010, 6.4 percent of Alaskans reported Asian or Pacific Islander descent, the seventh-highest share among all states and above the national rate of 4.9 percent.

Varied backgrounds within group

“Asian and Pacific Islander” includes many distinct groups with varied languages, cultures, and circumstances of arrival in the United States. Exhibit 2 shows the regions from which they trace their ancestry. The massive geographic range, from Pakistan in the west to island archipelagos of the Pacific, is home to over half the world’s population, around half of spoken languages, and a massive array of cultural and ethnic groups.

Asian areas of origin include the Far East, Southeast Asia to Indonesia, and the Indian Subcontinent. Pacific Islanders originate in the numerous island chains that make up Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia in the Pacific Ocean.

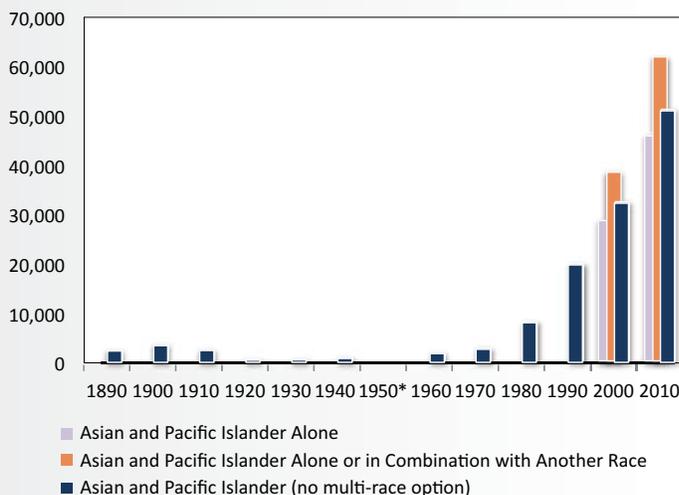
Working-age men in early years

The present day isn’t the first time a substantial portion of Alaska residents were Asian or Pacific Islander. In 1890, the group represented 7.1 percent of Alaska’s population, a higher percentage than any other U.S. state or territory at the time.

These early residents were mainly working-age Chinese or Japanese men who lived primarily in cannery towns. Through the Klondike Gold Rush era, the number of Asian and Pacific Islanders stayed fairly high, around a couple thousand people, despite decreasing percentage-wise as more whites moved in. After World War I, though, the group’s population declined with the territory’s total population.

Even though many Filipinos began to arrive and

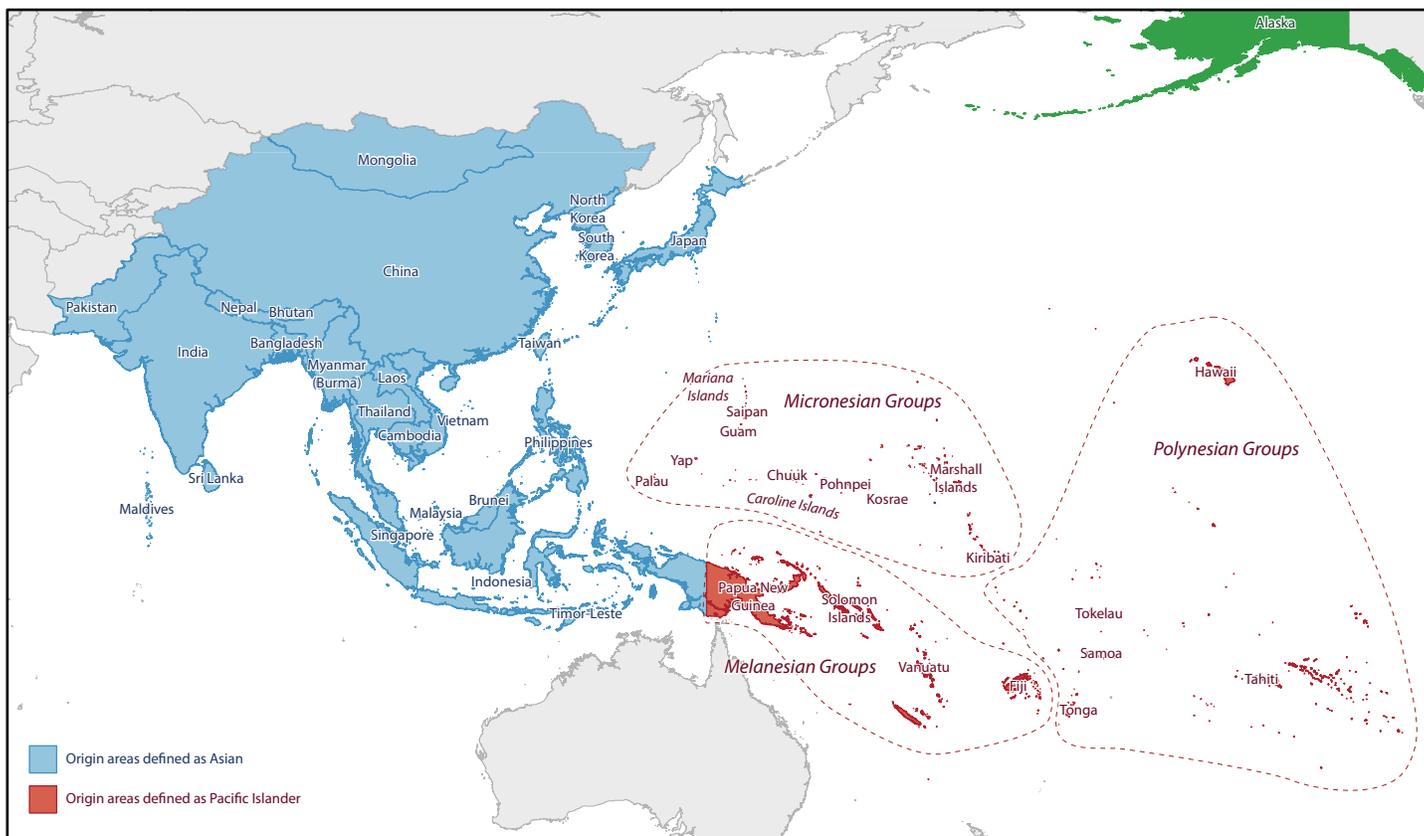
1 Rapid Population Growth Since '90 Asians and Pacific Islanders, Alaska



*The 1950 Alaska Census didn't tally Asians/Pacific Islanders.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

2 Origins of Asians and Pacific Islanders

Diverse, massive geographic range includes over half the world's population



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

boost the numbers during the Great Depression, those of Asian and Pacific Islander descent made up less than 1 percent of the total population during most of Alaska's post-war territorial period.

Around 300 Alaskans of Japanese ancestry, more age- and gender-diverse than the workers of earlier generations, remained the territory's largest Asian and Pacific Islander segment for much of that time. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and declaration of war on Japan, they suffered forced internment, mostly at Minidoka Camp in Idaho.

Changes to immigration law

Following statehood in 1959, conditions changed greatly for Asian and Pacific Islanders in Alaska as well as the U.S. The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act ended the racial quota system, which had severely limited non-European immigration. This dovetailed with the 1968 discovery of the large oil field at Prudhoe Bay, ushering in the

modern Alaska economy and successive population growth.

This spurred a rapid growth period for the state's Asian and Pacific Islander population as well, and it continues today. The size of the overall group quadrupled twice over successive 20-year periods: 1960 to 1980 and again from 1980 to 2000. This increase was more permanent and diverse in ethnic, gender, and economic terms than the Asian and Pacific Islander migrations of earlier eras.

As a proportion of the total population, Asians and Pacific Islanders grew from less than 1 percent in 1970 to 2 percent in 1980, 3.5 percent in 1990, 4.5 percent in 2000, and finally 6.4 percent in 2010.

Alaska has highest concentration of Filipinos

The makeup of Alaska's Asian community differs considerably from the nation as a whole. Just over

3 Most in Alaska are Filipino, Polynesian Asian and Pacific Islander Alaskans by origin, 2010

	Race Alone				Race Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races			
	Alaska		United States		Alaska		United States	
Total Asian Responses	37,193	100%	14,314,103	100%	52,356	100%	17,941,286	100%
Asian Indian	1,218	3%	2,843,391	20%	1,911	4%	3,183,063	18%
Bangladeshi	33	—	128,792	1%	39	—	147,300	1%
Bhutanese	35	—	15,290	—	42	—	19,439	—
Burmese	24	—	91,085	1%	30	—	100,200	1%
Cambodian	228	1%	231,616	2%	328	1%	276,667	2%
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	1,998	5%	3,137,061	22%	3,639	7%	3,794,673	21%
Filipino	19,394	52%	2,555,923	18%	25,424	49%	3,416,840	19%
Hmong	3,427	9%	247,595	2%	3,534	7%	260,073	1%
Indonesian	77	—	63,383	—	133	—	95,270	1%
Japanese	1,476	4%	763,325	5%	3,926	7%	1,304,286	7%
Korean	4,684	13%	1,423,784	10%	6,542	12%	1,706,822	10%
Laotian	1,684	5%	191,200	1%	2,121	4%	232,130	1%
Malaysian	16	—	16,138	—	46	—	26,179	—
Nepalese	88	—	51,907	—	114	—	59,490	—
Pakistani	139	—	363,699	3%	184	—	409,163	2%
Sri Lankan	34	—	38,596	—	49	—	45,381	—
Taiwanese	62	—	196,691	1%	88	—	230,382	1%
Thai	951	3%	166,620	1%	1,533	3%	237,583	1%
Vietnamese	960	3%	1,548,449	11%	1,446	3%	1,737,433	10%
Other Asian, Specified	29	—	20,636	—	88	—	35,151	—
Other Asian, Not Specified	636	2%	218,922	2%	1,139	2%	623,761	3%
Total Pacific Islander Responses	7,062	100%	523,930	100%	11,709	100%	1,271,942	100%
Polynesian	6,156	87%	311,331	59%	9,884	84%	783,727	62%
Native Hawaiian	949	13%	156,146	30%	3,006	26%	527,077	41%
Samoaan	4,663	66%	109,637	21%	5,953	51%	184,440	15%
Tongan	499	7%	41,219	8%	762	7%	57,183	4%
Other Polynesian	45	1%	4,329	1%	163	1%	15,027	1%
Micronesian	660	9%	143,596	27%	1,062	9%	214,893	17%
Guamanian or Chamorro	380	5%	88,310	17%	667	6%	147,798	12%
Marshallese	30	—	19,841	4%	49	—	22,434	2%
Other Micronesian	250	4%	35,445	7%	346	3%	44,661	4%
Melanesian	31	—	25,072	5%	47	—	33,143	3%
Fijian	29	—	24,629	5%	42	—	32,304	3%
Other Melanesian	2	—	443	—	5	—	839	—
Other Pacific Islander, not specified	215	3%	43,931	8%	716	6%	240,179	19%

Note: A dash means the value is less than 1 percent.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

half of Asian Alaskans track their background to the Philippines, in contrast to less than 20 percent nationwide. (See Exhibit 3.)

Several other groups are also represented in greater proportion in Alaska, including Koreans, Laotians, and Hmong.

People with Chinese (including Taiwanese), Asian Indian, and Vietnamese ancestry make up about 54 percent of the Asian population nationwide, but only 11 percent in Alaska. Among sizable Asian groups in Alaska as well as nationally, people of

Japanese descent are most likely to report being multiracial.

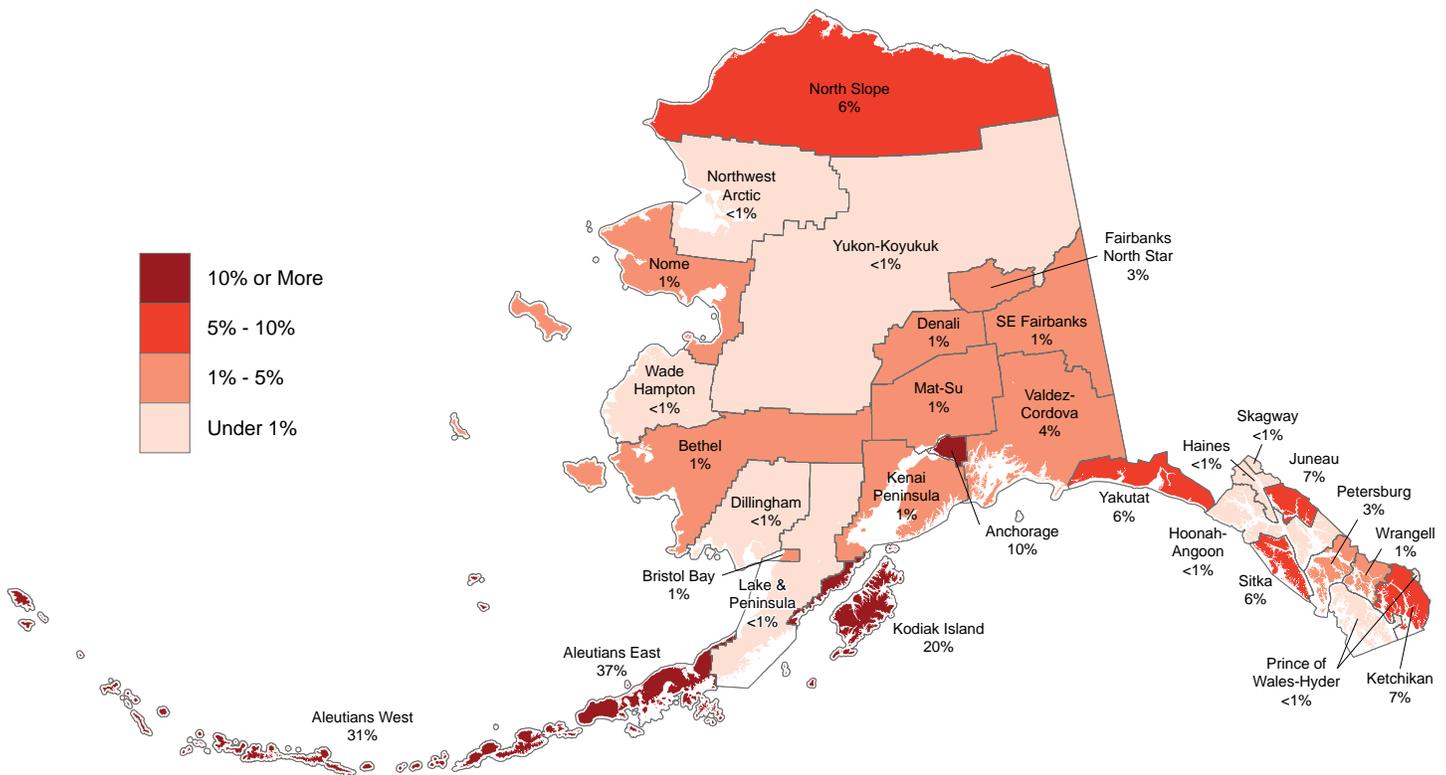
Pacific Islanders mostly Samoan

Pacific Islanders include all people of Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian descent. Polynesians — about 59 percent of Pacific Islanders nationwide — make up about 87 percent of the group within Alaska.

A majority (66 percent) of Pacific Islanders in

4 Asians, Pacific Islanders Concentrated in Cities, Aleutians, North Slope

Populations by region, Alaska, 2010



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

the state have roots in Samoa, a larger proportion of Samoans than any other state. Native Hawaiians, who make up 30 percent of Pacific Islanders nationwide, are about 13 percent of the group in Alaska. Few Alaskans have Melanesian roots, and 9 percent of Pacific Islanders are Micronesians, most of whom have origins on the island of Guam.

Nationally, Pacific Islanders are the most likely of any race group to report being multiracial, at 56 percent. In Alaska, one-third of Pacific Islanders report multi-race heritage, also the highest of any group.

Anchorage the hub for both

Alaska's largest city is the center of both the Asian and Pacific Islander populations in Alaska. Around 65 percent live within the Anchorage municipality, which is home to 41 percent of Alaska's total population. This is an increase from 1990, when the group's share in Anchorage was 55 percent.

Pacific Islanders separately are even more concentrated in Anchorage, with 80 percent living in the municipality. Including those who are multi-racial, Pacific Islanders compose a greater share of Anchorage (3 percent) than any other county or equivalent in the United States, outside of Hawaii.

When grouped together as 10 percent of Anchorage's population, Asians and Pacific Islanders are the municipality's largest racial minority. Anchorage neighborhoods with particularly large Asian and Pacific Islander communities include Government Hill, Mountain View, and Midtown.

Other parts of the state with substantial Asian and Pacific Islander populations include the Aleutians and Kodiak Island Borough. (See Exhibits 4 and 5.) In the Aleutians, the group makes up over 30 percent of the population, mainly due to the seafood processing industry. This is a large jump from 1990, when they represented 12 percent of the region.

Kodiak Island Borough also has a substantial

5 Asian and Pacific Islander Populations by Area

Alaska boroughs and census areas, 2010

Area Name	Total Population	Race Alone		Race Alone or in Combination with One or More Other Races	
		Asian	Pacific Islander	Asian	Pacific Islander
Alaska	710,231	38,135	7,409	50,402	11,154
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	1,130	19	1,179	28
Aleutians West Census Area	5,561	1,606	103	1,743	148
Anchorage, Municipality	291,826	23,580	5,901	30,047	8,053
Bethel Census Area	17,013	160	27	249	58
Bristol Bay Borough	997	8	3	35	20
Denali Borough	1,826	19	1	41	1
Dillingham Census Area	4,847	32	6	87	27
Fairbanks North Star Borough	97,581	2,591	396	4,159	776
Haines Borough	2,508	14	0	42	3
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,150	12	1	39	4
Juneau, City and Borough	31,275	1,919	218	2,850	416
Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,400	631	119	1,159	297
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,477	943	27	1,183	72
Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	2,660	87	2,927	168
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,631	6	5	23	9
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	1,096	221	2,110	568
Nome Census Area	9,492	96	9	153	19
North Slope Borough	9,430	425	104	514	155
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,523	42	12	78	27
Petersburg Census Area	3,815	100	7	197	18
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	5,559	21	21	112	44
Sitka, City and Borough	8,881	529	30	718	78
Skagway, Municipality	968	5	1	22	2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,029	64	18	113	29
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,636	354	54	451	78
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,459	18	0	27	11
Wrangell, City and Borough	2,369	33	1	56	15
Yakutat, City and Borough	662	27	12	43	22
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,588	14	6	45	8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Asian and Pacific Islander community, which has doubled in the last two decades to 20 percent of the population.

Several other boroughs have Asian and Pacific Islander populations close to the state average, including Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, Yakutat, and the North Slope.

Growth from births, migration

The rapid growth of Alaska's Asian population is largely due to migration. Though natural increase (births minus deaths) is substantial — particularly when including those who indicate they're multi-racial — migration accounts for over 50 percent of annual growth, based on analysis of change be-

tween the 2000 and 2010 censuses.

In addition to direct gains from migration, a large share of migrants are in their child-rearing years, ages 20 to 40, which means their household sizes are significantly higher than the stage average: 4.44 for Pacific Islander householders and 3.41 for Asians versus 2.65 statewide.

Natural increase is the largest contributor to contemporary population growth for the Pacific Islander population, which is much younger on average. Among Pacific Islander Alaskans, over half of the population is under age 25.

Roughly two-thirds of annual growth for Alaska's single-race Pacific Islander population is due to natural increase, and that ratio increases to three-quarters when adding those who identify with an additional race.

Many youth are multiracial

A large share of Asian and Pacific Islander youth in Alaska are multi-racial — for ages 0 to 4 in the 2010 Census, multi-race youth represent nearly half the population for both groups. (See Exhibit 6).

This pattern is the same for the nation as a whole, and is due to more interracial relationships in recent decades as well as increasing identification with more than one race among young people.

In the 2010 Census, 24 percent of the state's Asian population and 33 percent of Pacific Islanders were multiracial. Statewide, 7 percent of Alaskans reported more than one race.

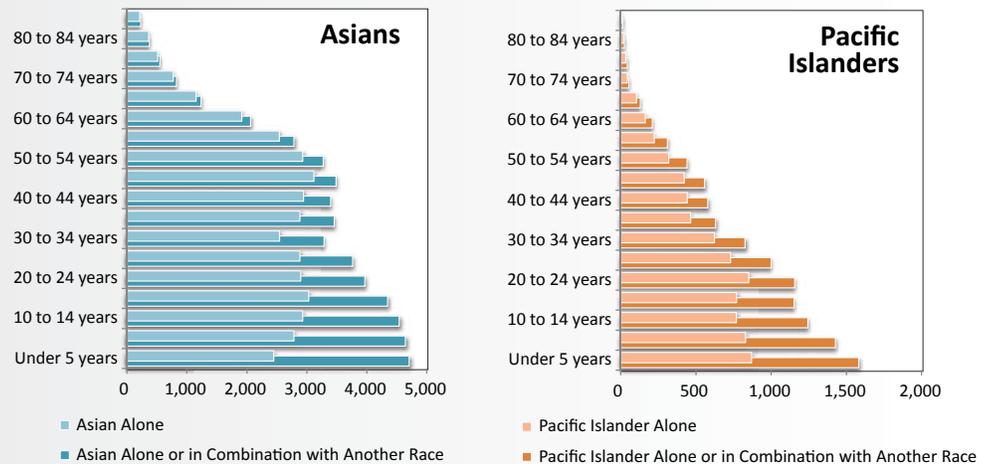
Many were born in the U.S.

Place of birth is a useful gauge for migration, and like all racial groups in the state except Alaska Natives, a high percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders were born elsewhere.

According to recent (2007-2011) data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, approximately 13 percent of Alaska’s single-race Asian residents were born in the state, and 33 percent are native to the U.S., including its territories. Among Pacific Islanders, 22 percent were born in Alaska and roughly 90 percent were born in the United States. Including those with more than one race adds considerably to those percentages.

For comparison, 29 percent of Alaska’s white (alone) population was born in the state, and 96 percent were born in the U.S.

6 Younger Populations Alaska’s Asians and Pacific Islanders, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

More Asian women than men

One characteristic that stands out over the past few decades in Alaska and nationally is that around ages 20 to 25, Asian women consistently begin to outnumber men. This fact is at least partly attributable to U.S. immigration policy that favors family reunification — this includes women moving from many parts of Asia for international marriages and a higher ratio of female-to-male senior citizens who reunite with younger family members in the U.S.

Ratios of male-to-female migrants vary greatly by the sending nation, but Alaska’s pattern of Asian immigration yields roughly the same imbalance toward women as the nation as a whole. The 2010 Census shows that including multi-race respondents, Alaska has 0.92 Asian men for every Asian woman, the same as the U.S.

The Pacific Islander male-to-female ratio, including multi-race, is 1.04 in Alaska and 1.00 nationally. Alaska’s overall male-to-female ratio is 1.09, and for the U.S. it’s 0.97.

When migration isn’t a major factor, relatively youthful populations will have higher male-to-female ratios, and those with many older people will have lower ratios due to shorter life expectancies for men.

About these classifications

Following current guidelines from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, and used by the U.S. Census Bureau, “Asian” refers to a person having origins in any of the original people of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam. The Asian population includes people who indicated their race(s) as “Asian” or reported entries such as “Asian Indian,” “Chinese,” “Filipino,” “Korean,” “Japanese,” and “Vietnamese” or provided other detailed Asian responses.” (2010 Census Briefs.)

“Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” refers to a person having origins in any of the original inhabitants of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population includes people who marked the “Native Hawaiian” checkbox, the “Guamanian or Chamorro” checkbox, the “Samoan” checkbox, or the “Other Pacific Islander” checkbox. It also includes people who reported entries such as Pacific Islander; Polynesian entries such as Tahitian, Tongan, and Tokelauan; Micronesian entries such as Marshallese, Palauan, and Chuukese; and Melanesian entries, such as Fijian, Guinean, and Solomon Islander.” In this article, “Pacific Islander” is used for “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.” (2010 Census Briefs.)

The guidelines used by the Census Bureau to categorize race have changed over the decades, and this affects comparability of data from different years. Since the 2000 Census, Asians and Pacific Islanders have been tabulated separately, and respondents may select more than one race. As a result, data from the 1990 and previous censuses are not directly comparable to 2000 and 2010 counts.

7 The Asian and Pacific Islander Workforce

Alaska and the U.S., percentages by occupation type, 2006 to 2010

	Alaska			United States		
	Total Workforce	Asian (Alone)	Pacific Islander (Alone)	Total Workforce	Asian (Alone)	Pacific Islander (Alone)
Total workers (margins of error in parentheses)	332,126 (±12,150)	20,698 (±911)	2,787 (±301)	141,833,331 (±112,056)	7,025,357 (±11,825)	223,785 (±3,089)
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	35% (0)	17% (±2)	11% (±4)	35% (0)	48% (0)	23% (±1)
Management, business, and financial occupations	14% (0)	6% (±1)	3% (±2)	14% (0)	16% (0)	10% (0)
Management occupations	10% (0)	4% (±1)	3% (±2)	10% (0)	9% (0)	6% (0)
Business and financial operations occupations	4% (0)	3% (±1)	0% (±6)	5% (0)	7% (0)	3% (0)
Computer, engineering, and science occupations	5% (0)	3% (±1)	1% (±4)	5% (0)	14% (0)	3% (0)
Computer and mathematical occupations	1% (0)	1% (±1)	0% (±4)	2% (0)	8% (0)	2% (0)
Architecture and engineering occupations	2% (0)	2% (±1)	1% (±4)	2% (0)	4% (0)	1% (0)
Life, physical, and social science occupations	2% (0)	1% (0)	0% (±4)	1% (0)	2% (0)	1% (0)
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media occupations:	11% (0)	4% (±1)	6% (±4)	11% (0)	9% (0)	7% (0)
Community and social service occupations	2% (0)	1% (0)	5% (±3)	2% (0)	1% (0)	2% (0)
Legal occupations	1% (0)	0% (0)	0% (±6)	1% (0)	1% (0)	0% (0)
Education, training, and library occupations	6% (0)	2% (±1)	1% (±1)	6% (0)	5% (0)	4% (0)
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media occupations	2% (0)	1% (0)	0% (±4)	2% (0)	2% (0)	1% (0)
Health care practitioners and technical occupations:	5% (0)	3% (±1)	1% (±4)	5% (0)	9% (0)	3% (0)
Health diagnosing and treating practitioners and other technical occupations	3% (0)	2% (±1)	0% (±6)	4% (0)	7% (0)	2% (0)
Health technologists and technicians	1% (0)	1% (0)	1% (±4)	2% (0)	2% (0)	1% (0)
Service occupations	17% (0)	28% (±2)	26% (±7)	17% (0)	16% (0)	23% (±1)
Health care support occupations	2% (0)	3% (±1)	3% (±3)	2% (0)	2% (0)	3% (0)
Protective service occupations	2% (0)	1% (0)	2% (±4)	2% (0)	1% (0)	4% (0)
Fire fighting and prevention, and other protective service workers including supervisors	1% (0)	0% (0)	1% (±4)	1% (0)	1% (0)	3% (0)
Law enforcement workers including supervisors	1% (0)	0% (±1)	1% (±4)	1% (0)	0% (0)	1% (0)
Food preparation and serving related occupations	5% (0)	10% (±2)	5% (±3)	5% (0)	6% (0)	7% (0)
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations	4% (0)	8% (±1)	6% (±4)	4% (0)	2% (0)	5% (0)
Personal care and service occupations	4% (0)	6% (±1)	9% (±4)	3% (0)	5% (0)	4% (0)
Sales and office occupations	24% (±1)	27% (±2)	27% (±7)	25% (0)	22% (0)	28% (±1)
Sales and related occupations	9% (0)	10% (±2)	8% (±4)	11% (0)	11% (0)	10% (±1)
Office and administrative support occupations	15% (0)	17% (±2)	19% (±7)	14% (0)	11% (0)	18% (±1)
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	13% (0)	4% (±1)	8% (±6)	10% (0)	4% (0)	11% (±1)
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	1% (0)	1% (0)	0% (±6)	1% (0)	0% (0)	1% (0)
Construction and extraction occupations	8% (0)	2% (±1)	3% (±4)	6% (0)	1% (0)	6% (0)
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations	4% (0)	2% (±1)	5% (±5)	3% (0)	2% (0)	4% (0)
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11% (0)	24% (±3)	28% (±8)	12% (0)	10% (0)	15% (±1)
Production occupations	5% (0)	17% (±2)	8% (±5)	6% (0)	7% (0)	6% (0)
Transportation occupations	4% (0)	2% (±1)	4% (±3)	4% (0)	2% (0)	5% (0)
Material moving occupations	3% (0)	5% (±1)	16% (±6)	3% (0)	1% (0)	4% (0)

Notes: Margins of error are given in parentheses.

2006 to 2010 ACS data are the latest available with detailed occupational groupings by race.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section



Income and Poverty Level among Asians and Pacific Islanders Alaska and the United States, 2007 to 2011

	Alaska			United States		
	Total (all races)	Asian (Alone)	Pacific Islander (Alone)	Total (all races)	Asian (Alone)	Pacific Islander (Alone)
Median household income	\$69,014 (±793)	\$64,794 (±3,580)	\$58,362 (±4,425)	\$52,762 (±99)	\$70,815 (±281)	\$56,406 (±1,405)
Per capita income	\$31,944 (±423)	\$23,199 (±935)	\$15,370 (±1,401)	\$27,915 (±80)	\$30,883 (±171)	\$20,336 (±373)
Percent of population below the poverty level	10% (0)	10% (±2)	18% (±7)	14% (0)	12% (0)	18% (±1)

Notes: Margins of error are given in parentheses.

Median household income by race is based on the race of the head of household.

Poverty thresholds are set by the U.S. Census Bureau and vary by family size and composition.

Incomes are in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars.

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

High workforce participation

Alaska's labor force participation rate is higher than the Lower 48's — 72 percent compared to 65 — and this holds true for the Asian and Pacific Islander populations. Approximately 75 percent of Asian (alone) Alaskans age 16 or older were in the labor force as of 2007-2011, compared to 66 percent of Asians nationwide. For Pacific Islander Alaskans, the participation rate was 71 percent, compared to 69 percent nationwide.

Part of the reason for Alaska's higher labor force participation rate is its smaller share of population age 65 or older. Based on the same survey, Alaska unemployment rates were around 5 percent for the Asian population and 9 percent for Pacific Islanders.

Different jobs than down south

The jobs Asian and Pacific Islander Alaskans work differ somewhat from the state's total workforce as well as their national counterparts. (See Exhibit 7.)

Nationally, about half of Asian Americans are employed in management, business, science, and arts. The number is much smaller in Alaska (17

percent), and employment is spread through other industries. About 17 percent of Asian Alaskans are in production occupations, which include food processing. Other jobs common in the Asian community include office and administrative support, food preparation and serving, and sales and related occupations.

Two job categories stand out for Pacific Islanders. About one in five hold office and administrative support positions, roughly equivalent to the national rate. These jobs are mostly filled by women. Approximately 16 percent of Pacific Islander Alaskans work in material moving occupations, and in this case a large share is male — well above the 4 percent national rate for Pacific Islanders in this field.

While the U.S. Asian and Pacific Islander populations have higher median household incomes than the nationwide average, household income among Asians and Pacific Islanders in Alaska tends to be lower than average. (See Exhibit 8). This is due in part to their distinct mix of occupations.

Per capita income is significantly lower for Pacific Islanders in Alaska, largely because such a big part of its population hasn't reached working ages yet. (See Exhibit 6.)

Nursing Assistants and Care Aides

Demand continues to grow as population gets older

With the aging of the population, the jobs that provide hands-on, long-term care for the elderly and people with chronic conditions are expected to be some of the fastest-growing occupations in health care. (See exhibits 1 and 2.)

Known as “direct service workers,” these certified nursing assistants, home health aides, and personal care aides help their clients with daily activities and provide companionship and emotional support.

These services often allow seniors to stay in their homes when they might otherwise need to be institutionalized. They also provide a large number of secure, mostly year-round jobs. In 2012, 14,212 people held a direct service job in Alaska.

Services and where they work

Certified nursing assistants primarily work in nursing homes, other long-term care facilities, or hospitals. They move patients and assist with eating, grooming, dressing, bathing, and using the bathroom. CNAs also help with clinical tasks such as range-of-motion exercises, taking vital signs, and changing wound dressings.

Personal care and home health aides work in a client’s home, or occasionally in an assisted living facility, helping with daily activities such as bathing and dressing. These workers also take care of household chores such as cleaning, making beds, doing laundry, preparing meals, and washing dishes. They may also help manage medication and advise on nutrition, cleanliness, or household activities.

Although personal care and home health aide are separate occupations, their duties are essentially the same in Alaska. (See the sidebar on page 13 for more explanation.)

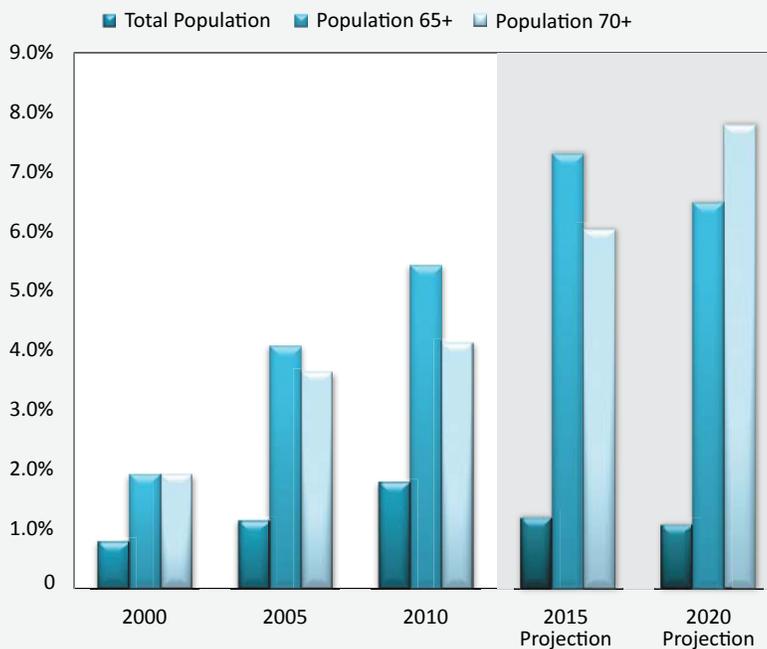
In 2012, home health and personal care aides made up over 83 percent of direct service workers in Alaska, or 11,768. In contrast, Alaska had fewer than 2,500 certified nursing assistants.

More seniors will need care

Nationwide, the number of senior citizens — those 65 and older — is projected to grow by nearly 32 million between 2010 and 2030 to nearly a fifth of the U.S. population, up from 13 percent in 2010.

Alaska’s senior population grew by 79 percent between 2000 and 2012 and is expected to follow the U.S. trend, with the number of Alaskans over 70 growing by just under 60 percent in the next seven years. More than 130,000 baby boomers — those born between 1946 and 1964

1 Rapid Growth in Senior Citizens Alaska, 2000 to 2010



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

— will reach retirement age in Alaska over the next 16 years.

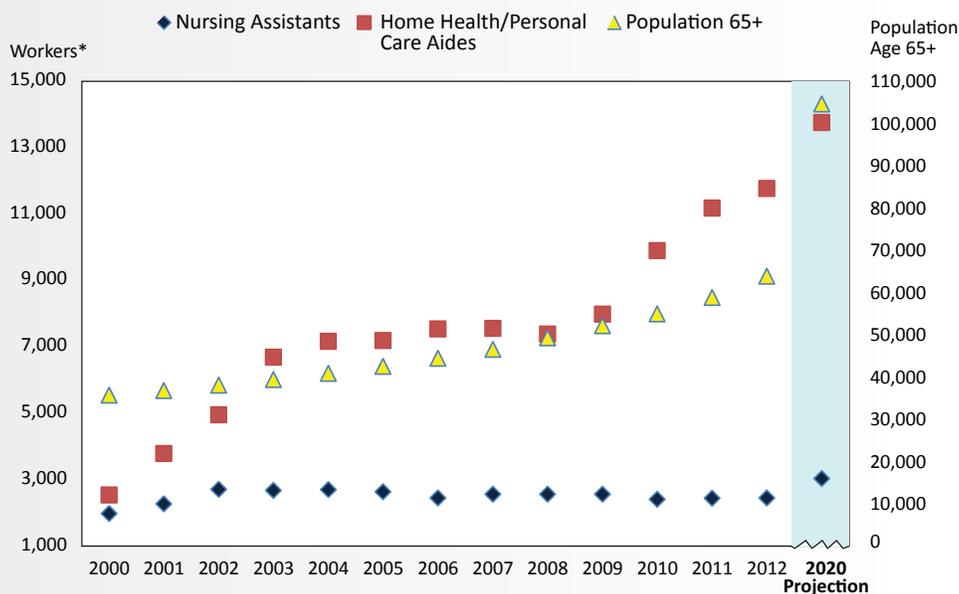
High forecasted job growth

The number of direct service workers in Alaska more than tripled from 2000 to 2012, increasing by more than 9,200 workers. (See Exhibit 2.) Demand is expected to remain high for at least the next two decades.

The number of CNAs has remained relatively flat over the decade, but is expected to grow faster than average in the near future as the state's population gets older.

Alaska's broader health care and social services industry, which encompasses 80 percent of these direct service workers, is projected to grow by 31 percent between 2010 and 2020, or nearly 13,000 jobs. About 2,700 of those are expected to be new direct service jobs.

2 Numbers of Seniors vs. Service Workers* Alaska, 2000 to 2020 projection



*Number of people working in the occupation at any point during the year. Worker counts tend to be higher than job counts because more than one worker can fill a job during a year.
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

With over a fifth of resident direct service workers currently over age 55, retirees and others leaving their positions are expected to create an additional 2,200 job openings.

Distinguishing home health and personal care aides

Home health aides and assistants and personal care aides are classified as separate occupations, but in Alaska they're increasingly used interchangeably. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services no longer distinguishes between the two.

In addition to daily care, home health aides traditionally performed some basic medical duties while personal care aides did not, but those lines have blurred over the past few decades and their duties and training have become essentially the same in Alaska.

For Medicare purposes, both types of aides are typically classified as personal care aides. However, because by standard definition they're different and employers report them to the State of Alaska separately, this article includes data for both occupations.

Jobs don't require a degree

These occupations don't require a four-year college degree, and workers can generally enter these positions without extensive training or education.

Home health and personal care aides are required to have at least a high school diploma and pass a background check. Employers may also require additional certification.

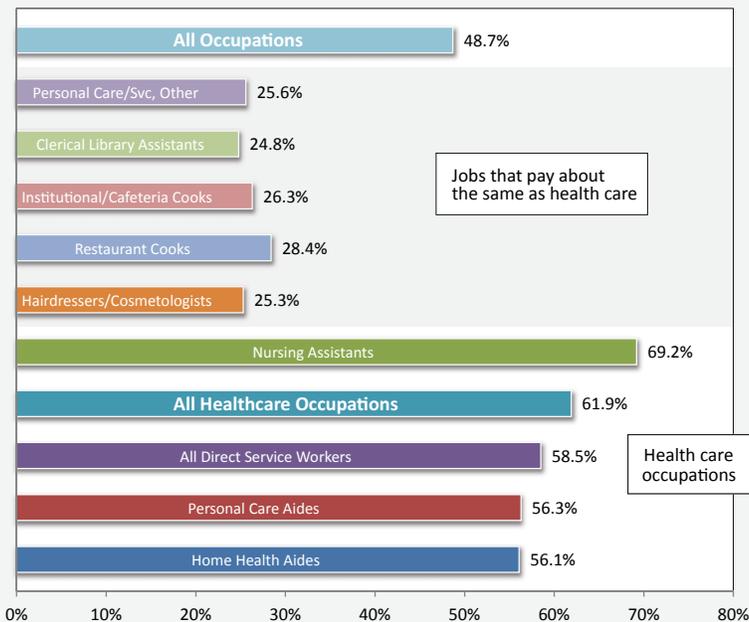
Home health aides no longer have a specified training program and certification test in Alaska, but they do in other states where this occupation is more prevalent — particularly in senior communities with a continuum of care services or other large assisted living facilities.

CNAs in Alaska work under the supervision of a registered nurse and must complete a state-certified training program and a certifying exam.

Workers in each of these occupations may also be

3 Percent Who Worked 3+ Quarters

Select Alaska occupations, 2012



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

required to complete basic preparatory courses in CPR, first aid, and bloodborne pathogens.

Higher pay than jobs with similar training

Alaska is the top-paying state for CNAs and personal care aides, and the third-highest paying for home health aides. Personal care aides make an average of \$13.53 an hour, home health aides make \$13.79, and CNAs make \$16.82. These wages top the nationwide average by between \$3.30 and \$4.50 per hour.

For comparison, jobs requiring similar levels of experience and training as personal care and home health aides make significantly less. Child care workers in Alaska make an average of \$11.44 an hour, maids and housekeeping cleaners earn \$11.10, and nonrestaurant food servers make \$12 on average.

Entering the health care field

Because these occupations are an opportunity to

enter the health and social services field, they give workers a clear path for advancing their careers.¹

For example, with additional training, personal care and home health aides can advance to positions as CNAs, licensed practical nurses, psychiatric aides and technicians, medical assistants, and health care social workers.

CNAs can expand their education and training to become licensed practical nurses, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, health care social workers, and registered nurses.

Workers mostly women, 92 percent Alaska residents

Direct service workers span the state, and the vast majority in every area are care aides. Personal care or home health aides vastly outnumber CNAs in the Anchorage and Gulf Coast Regions by more than fourfold. In other regions of the state, there are from 1.8 to 3.3 times as many aides as CNAs.

These jobs are dominated by women, particularly among CNAs, with a ratio of seven women to every man. Home health and personal care aides had slightly lower ratios, at 3.1 and 3.5 respectively. Among all health care support jobs, the female-to-male ratio is 4.9.

These jobs are also mostly filled by Alaskans, with nearly 12 times as many resident workers — that's about 92 percent resident, over the statewide average of about 80 percent.

Among aides, resident workers exceed nonresidents by nearly three times the rate for all Alaska jobs. Certified nursing assistants are even higher, with about 17 times as many residents.

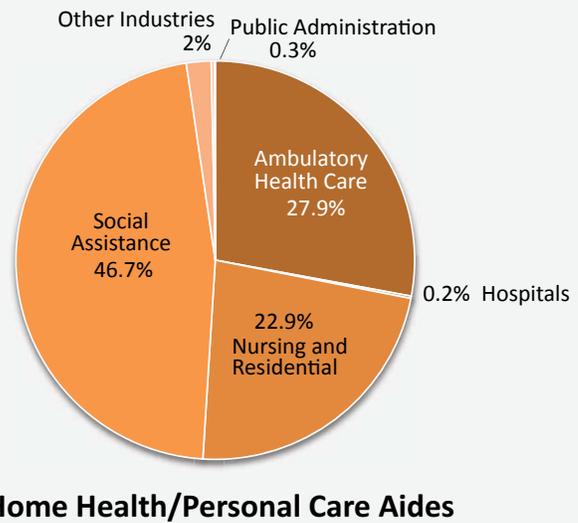
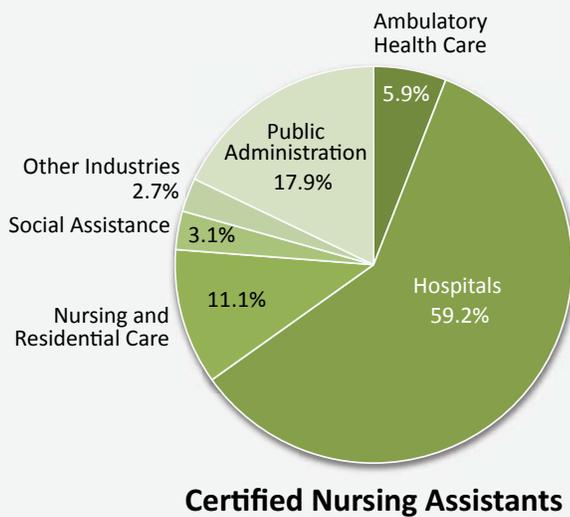
The comparatively high level of resident workers is partly explained by the nature of the work, which tends to be less seasonal than jobs that pay a similar wage. Because clients' needs are constant, care varies little throughout the year. These jobs also tend to have less turnover than average.

Nearly 60 percent of direct service workers

¹As shown in the Alaska Career Lattice: live.laborstats.alaska.gov/cl/cloccs.cfm

4 Industries that Employ Care Aides and Nursing Assistants

Alaska, 2012



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

worked three or more quarters in 2012, compared to just under half for all other occupations. (See Exhibit 3.)

The difference is even more pronounced when comparing to occupations with similar pay. For example, only about a quarter of other personal care and service workers, less than a third of restaurant cooks, and about a quarter of clerical library assistants worked three or more quarters.

Vast majority of jobs are private

Over 94 percent of direct service workers worked for private employers in 2012, and local governments employed only about 3 percent. The State of Alaska employs only CNAs in the facilities it manages.

Most of the private-sector workers were aides

working for about 470 employers. Among those, 47.9 percent employed personal care aides, 34 percent used home health aides, and 18 percent hired CNAs.

The majority of CNAs work in private hospitals — about three in five. (See Exhibit 4.)

Among CNAs, about 11 percent worked in private nursing and residential care facilities in 2012, 6 percent in ambulatory health services (services for those not requiring long-term care), and 3 percent in private social assistance. About 18 percent of CNAs worked in publicly owned hospitals or other public health care or social assistance facilities.

Just under half of aides worked in social assistance. The other occupations were nearly equally distributed between ambulatory health care (27.9 percent), and nursing home and residential care (22.9 percent).

Winter Fisheries in Alaska

Some of the state's biggest catches are lesser known

People often think of Alaska's world-famous fishing in terms of its iconic summer salmon harvests, but Alaska's real "biggest catch" is pollock, which produces the highest volume and greatest dollar value of any single species. Nearly 40 percent is landed between late January and the end of March — about 2.9 billion pounds in 2012.

Though winter fisheries are less visible, many of Alaska's most important seafood harvests take place in the dark winter months. After pollock, the major winter harvests include other groundfish such as cod, flatfish, Atka mackerel, rockfish, and sablefish as well as king crab, snow crab, and the year-round Southeast king salmon troll.

Bigger harvests but fewer jobs

Although the harvests are larger, winter seafood harvesting and processing jobs are dwarfed by

the deluge of employment centered on the summer salmon season. (See Exhibit 1.) In 2012, total fish harvesting employment peaked in July at nearly 25,000 jobs. Average employment between October 2011 and March 2012 was just 3,300.

Seafood processing employment shows a similar but less dramatic seasonal trend. In 2012, processing employment peaked in July at 19,500 jobs, and winter employment averaged 7,500 jobs a month between October and March. (See Exhibit 3.)

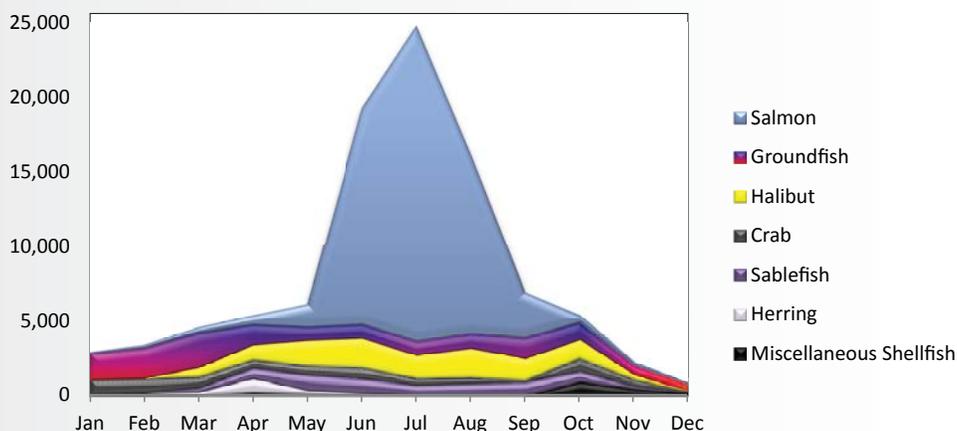
Groundfish dwarfs other species

Most winter commercial fishing takes place in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska in the crab and groundfish fisheries. Groundfish harvesting employment usually peaks in February or March, which mirrors groundfish harvest volumes. September shows another, smaller seasonal employment spike. (See Exhibit 2.)

The gear used to harvest groundfish makes the jobs less labor-intensive, so demand for fishing jobs is lower than for salmon. Large trawl vessels catch most groundfish and often process the fish on board.

Despite its lower profile, groundfish harvests dwarf other species in terms of volume. In 2012, fishermen landed 1.8 billion pounds of groundfish in between December and February, which is three times more than all the salmon caught in Alaska that year.

1 Monthly Fishing Job Distribution by Species Alaska, 2012



Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; Alaska Department of Fish and Game; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Crab also peaks in the winter

Like groundfish, crab harvesting employment also has two distinct peaks. (See Exhibit 2.) The Bering Sea snow crab harvest begins in January and continues into the spring, and Southeast tanner and golden king crab fisheries open in February. The Bering Sea red king crab fishery starts in the late fall. Employment in the Dungeness crab harvest, mostly in Southeast, typically peaks in July but at lower levels than the winter crab fisheries.

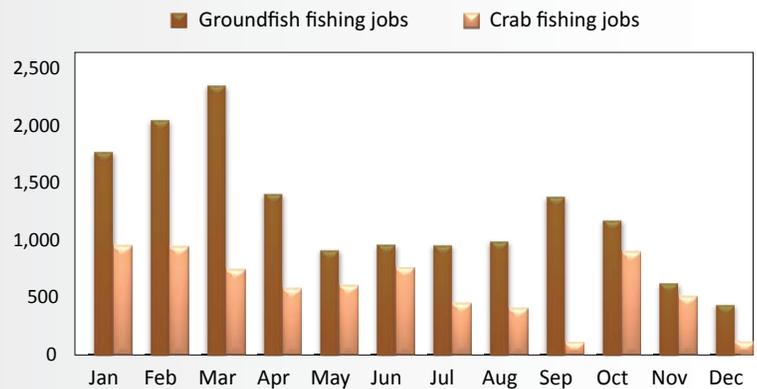
The foundation of some towns

Winter fisheries are vital to communities with year-round seafood processing, particularly in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. Dutch Harbor, the top fishing port in the nation by volume and second-highest for dollar value, is a major winter fishing hub.

Seafood processing employment in the Aleutians West Census Area, home to Dutch Harbor and other year-round ports, is higher in the winter than in the summer thanks to abundant crab and groundfish processing work. (See Exhibit 3.)

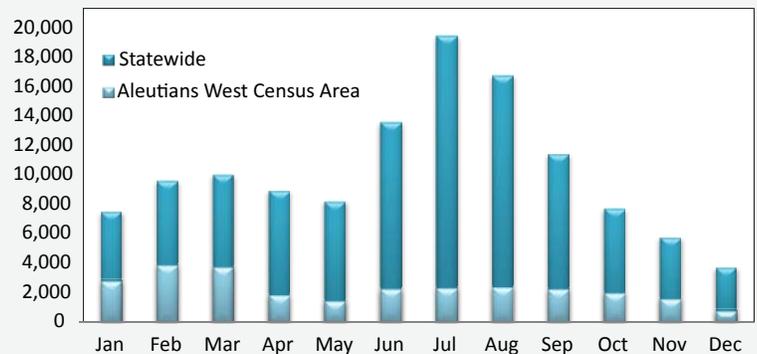
Nearly a third of all winter processing employment statewide is in Aleutians West, which combined with the Kodiak Island and Aleutians East boroughs makes up close to three-quarters of all winter seafood processing employment.

2 Groundfish and Crab Harvest Jobs Alaska, 2012



Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; Alaska Department of Fish and Game; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

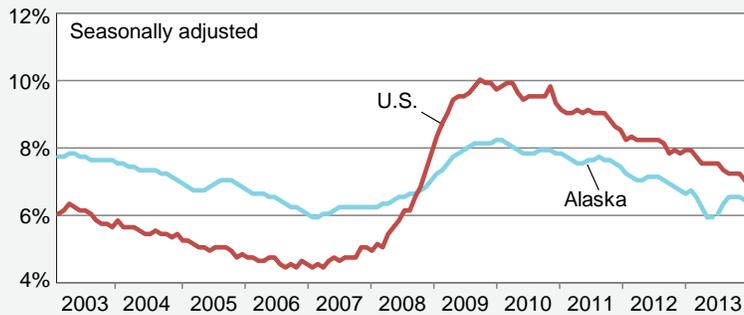
3 Seafood Processing Employment Statewide and Aleutians West, 2012



Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; Alaska Department of Fish and Game; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Employment Scene

1 Unemployment Rates January 2003 to December 2013



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

2 Unemployment Rates Boroughs and census areas

	Prelim.	Revised	
	12/13	11/13	12/12
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	6.7	7.0	7.9
Alaska Statewide	6.4	6.4	6.6
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	6.5	6.6	7.6
Alaska Statewide	6.5	6.2	7.0
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.2	5.1	5.6
Municipality of Anchorage	4.6	4.6	5.1
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	7.3	6.8	7.7
Gulf Coast Region	8.4	7.6	9.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	7.9	7.5	8.5
Kodiak Island Borough	8.5	6.0	9.6
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	11.0	10.3	11.4
Interior Region	6.5	6.4	7.2
Denali Borough	19.1	17.5	20.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.4	5.3	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	11.5	10.8	11.5
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	15.1	14.8	15.4
Northern Region	8.7	8.8	8.8
Nome Census Area	10.1	9.9	10.6
North Slope Borough	3.9	4.7	4.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	15.0	14.6	14.1
Southeast Region	7.2	6.6	7.4
Haines Borough	11.8	10.3	10.6
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	21.3	19.7	22.4
Juneau, City and Borough of	4.6	4.4	5.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6.8	6.2	7.4
Petersburg Census Area ¹	12.4	10.1	13.4
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	13.9	12.6	12.8
Sitka, City and Borough of	5.7	5.3	6.0
Skagway, Municipality of	20.4	20.5	23.7
Wrangell, City and Borough of	11.8	10.1	10.9
Yakutat, City and Borough of	10.7	10.6	9.2
Southwest Region	15.1	13.5	15.4
Aleutians East Borough	19.6	14.9	29.2
Aleutians West Census Area	14.5	10.8	20.0
Bethel Census Area	14.8	13.9	13.7
Bristol Bay Borough	8.5	7.3	8.9
Dillingham Census Area	11.2	10.6	11.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	8.2	7.9	8.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	20.8	19.4	19.2

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



This month in Trends history

WINTER 1950

The number of unemployed registered at local employment service offices on January first was 2,869, of which 535 were females, 996 were veterans. An additional estimated 2,000 unemployed were either not registered or were registered from mailing points outside immediate local office areas, making the total near 5,000. While this is not impressive by stateside standards, it represents 20 percent of the permanent resident territorial labor force, and proportionately affects Alaska's economy.

Job openings have fallen off to 198. Most needs are for bridge and highway engineers and graduate nurses for civil service agencies. Openings in other occupations are few, and can usually be filled from local labor almost as soon as orders are received. There is a temporary shortage of well-qualified stenographers.

Lumber production is very low at present. Only one or two sawmills are working. Prospects for the coming season are not at all encouraging. One of the largest plants, which was destroyed by a fire last fall, will not be rebuilt. No activity in this industry is expected before spring.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development has published *Alaska Economic Trends* as far back as 1961, and other labor market summaries since the late 1940s. Historical *Trends* articles are available at labor.alaska.gov/trends as far back as 1978, and complete issues are available from 1994.

Safety Minute

How to avoid health hazards in your own garage

Chemicals

People frequently stow automotive fluids, antifreeze, paints, solvents such as paint thinner, pesticides, and corrosive cleaners haphazardly all over the garage and often in unmarked containers. Reactive chemicals can eat away at inappropriate containers or leak vapors and liquids that might cause poisoning, burns, respiratory conditions, and fire hazards.

Store hazardous liquids sealed tightly in their original containers, off the floor, locked in a metal cabinet, and far from a pilot light.

Gasoline is an exception, and has its own instructions from the National Fire Protection Agency. Use a self-closing can that is labeled as gasoline and will hold no more than five gallons. This type of container has a vapor-tight cap and prevents static friction, which can ignite a fire. Do not store gasoline in a garage with an appliance that has a pilot light. Store fuels away from direct sunlight or any source of combustion.

Propane

Storing a barbecue grill in the garage is fine as long as the

propane tank doesn't accompany it inside. Don't grill in the garage, either, as this would allow potentially deadly carbon monoxide to accumulate.

The tank must be stored outside, or in an outbuilding with no other flammable materials, at least 10 feet from your house and garage. The freezing point of propane is -306° F, so it can safely stay outdoors all year.

Burnable floor coverings

A combustible floor mat underneath a car catches dripping auto fluids, but it could also conceal tools or sharp objects and is a tripping hazard. More than 9 million gallons of gasoline a year are spilled in America, and it can soak into any porous material and become an immediate fire hazard.

Use a metal drip tray. Soak up spills or drips with dedicated absorbent products. Once the liquid is fully absorbed, dispose of the absorbent.

Safety Minute is written by the Labor Standards and Safety Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Employer Resources

Employers of 100+ must have workers' comp insurance

The Alaska Workers' Compensation Act requires all employers with one or more employees in Alaska to have workers' compensation insurance, unless the employer has at least 100 employees and has been approved as a self-insurer.

Employers purchase workers' compensation insurance from commercial insurance carriers. Once employers have insurance, they're required to post in their workplaces an Employer's Notice of Insurance, which insurance companies provide. Employers must also submit proof of insurance to the Workers' Compensation Division, the administrative arm of the Workers' Compensation Board.

Executive officers of for-profit corporations are required to have workers' compensation insurance unless they choose to waive coverage by filing a waiver with the division.

If employers are unable to obtain insurance coverage from a commercial carrier, they can purchase insurance through a state assigned risk pool. And if employers feel their insurance premium is too high, they can request arbitration.

For more information or forms, call the Workers' Compensation Division at (907) 465-2790 or visit the department's "Links for Employers" Web site at: www.labor.alaska.gov/employer/employer.htm and click on "Workers' Compensation."

On the Workers' Compensation page, the "Forms" and "Employer Information" links under "Quick Links" on the right are particularly helpful.

Employer Resources is written by the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.