

ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS



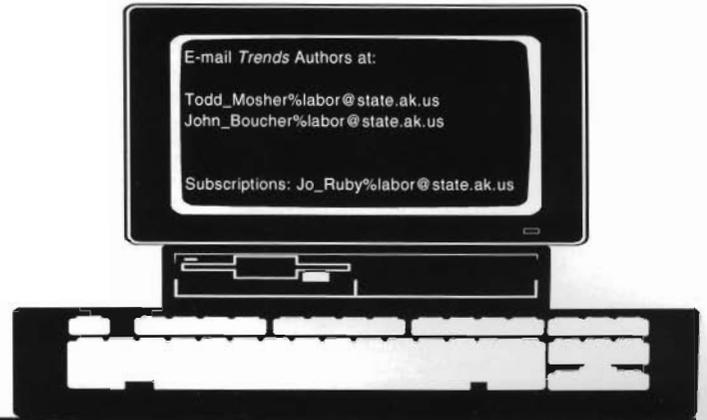
July
1995

ALASKA'S NEW HIRES INCREASE DURING SUMMER '94

MORE ALASKANS
EMPLOYED IN APRIL

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



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New Hires Increase During Summer of 1994

by Todd Mosher

New Hires Report

The Alaska New Hires Quarterly Report is a new series developed by the Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section. A new hire is defined as an employee who was not working for the employer during any of the previous four quarters.¹ In other words, a new hire represents either a new job or the turnover of an existing job, excluding seasonal rehires from the previous year. New hires include workers entering the work force for the first time; workers re-entering the work force after training, education, or child-rearing; previously unemployed individuals who find work with a new employer; and individuals who change employers while making a vertical or lateral career move.

The New Hires Quarterly Report identifies opportunities provided by the combined effect of turnover and job creation and it should prove especially useful to employment services personnel and the Alaskan job-seekers they serve. The series will provide job-seekers with a better understanding of the timing and magnitude of peak entry opportunities for Alaskan industries and occupations. Currently, data is available for the 2nd and 3rd Quarters of 1994.

Seafood processing and construction new hires expand

There were 75,628 Alaska new hires during 3rd Quarter 1994, up 3,994 or 5.6% from 2nd Quarter 1994. (See Table 1.) The increase was largely attributable to seasonal upswings in seafood processing and construction hiring, which more than offset declines in non-seafood manufacturing and tourism-related hiring. Peak hiring of new employees by sightseeing, travel, and hotel and lodging businesses occurred in late spring. Seafood processing new hires increased by 2,582 or 41% from 2nd to 3rd Quarter 1994, while other manufacturing industry new hires declined by 11%. Newly hired construction workers rose from 7,547 in the spring to 9,126 in the summer, a 21% increase. Ser-

vice industry new hires, excluding the tourism-related hotels and lodging subcategory, were up by 1,132 or 7.8%. During spring and summer quarters, roughly 23 percent of all Alaskan employees were newly hired.

New hires younger, more likely to be nonresidents

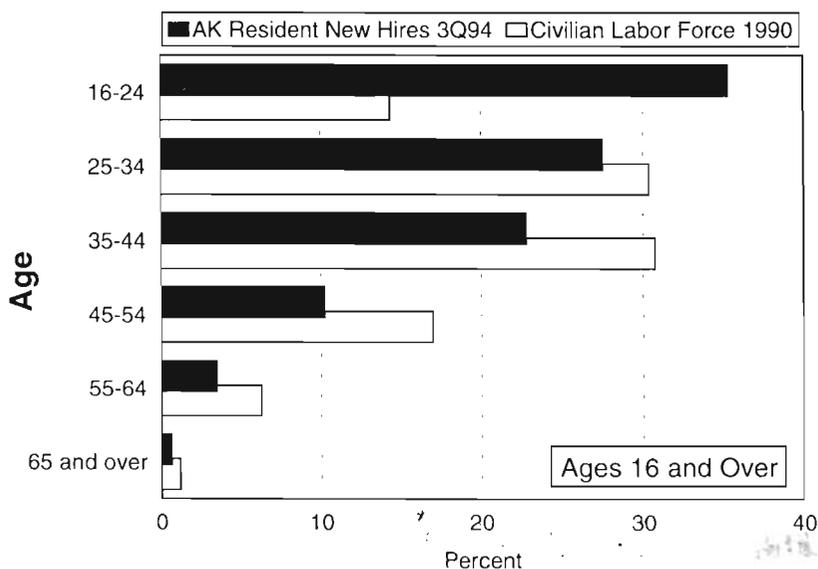
New hires include first-time entries into the labor market and tend to be younger, on average, than the overall work force. The average age of new hires is likely to be even younger during the late spring and summer months, when many high school graduates and college students find summer employment. Figure 1 compares the age distribution of Alaska resident new hires for 3rd Quarter 1994 with the age distribution of the

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¹ For a full explanation of how new hires data is produced, see methodology at the end of the article.

Figure • 1

**Age Distribution
Alaska Resident New Hires 3rd Quarter 1994
and Alaska Civilian Labor Force 1990**



Note: A resident is defined as an employee that applied for and received a Permanent Fund Dividend in 1993 or 1994.

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

T a b l e • 1

**Alaska New Hires 1/
2nd and 3rd Quarters 1994**

	2nd Qtr 94	3rd Qtr 94	Change
Total New Hires:	71,634	75,628	3,994
By Region 2/			
Northern	3,632	4,443	811
Interior	11,172	10,238	-934
Southwest	5,364	7,220	1,856
Anchorage	29,781	30,353	572
Gulf Coast	9,995	10,745	750
Southeast	10,250	10,753	503
Marine	801	843	42
Outside	444	585	141
Unknown	195	448	253
By Industry			
Ag./Forestry/Fishing	960	858	-102
Mining	1,303	1,669	366
Construction	7,547	9,126	1,579
Manufacturing	8,256	10,612	2,356
Seafood Processing	6,231	8,813	2,582
All Other	2,025	1,799	-226
Trans./Comm./Util.	6,036	5,070	-966
Tourism Related	1,829	1,028	-801
All Other	4,207	4,042	-165
Wholesale Trade	1,962	2,190	228
Retail Trade	19,040	18,598	-442
Fin./Ins./Real Estate	2,460	2,634	174
Services	18,538	18,482	-56
Hotels & Lodging	3,990	2,802	-1,188
All Other	14,548	15,680	1,132
Public Admin. 3/	5,532	6,389	857

1/ A "new hire" is defined as an employee that was hired by the firm in the report quarter and has not been employed by the firm during any of the previous four quarters.

2/ An employee's region is determined by his or her actual place of employment.

3/ Includes all employees of publicly-owned institutions.

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

Alaska civilian labor force for 1990.² Over 35 percent of resident new hires were 16- to 24-year-olds, well over twice the percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds in the overall work force.

A significant number of new hires are migratory workers and workers that have recently moved to Alaska from Outside. Compared to all other Alaska payroll employees, in the 3rd Quarter 1994, new hires were over twice as likely to have *not* received a Permanent Fund Dividend last year. This implies a much higher rate of nonresidency for new hires than for all other employees. Depending on the industry, new hires were anywhere from 1.3 to 4.6 times as likely to have not received a Permanent Fund Dividend. (See Figure 2.)

More new hires work in retail, service, manufacturing, and construction

On average, 51% of all Alaskan employment occurred in the retail, services, manufacturing, or construction industries in 1994. During the summer of 1994, 76% of new hires were employed in these four industries.

New hires by region

Southwest and Northern Alaska claimed the lion's share of summer gains in new hires; Interior new hires slowed. New hires located in Southwest Alaska were up by over a third from spring to summer 1994. (See Table 1.) Production workers—almost exclusively seafood processors—accounted for 825 of the 1,856 additional new hires.

² Since the age data is obtained from Permanent Fund Dividend records, the age distribution includes only Alaska resident new hires that applied for and received a Permanent Fund Dividend in 1993 or 1994.

Northern Alaska new hires were up by 22%. The largest gains were made in newly hired construction and production workers. Gains were also made by laborers, teachers, retail salespeople, and transportation workers.

Interior new hires leveled off by 8.4% from spring to summer. In the 3rd Quarter there were 656 less new hires of food service and retail sales workers than in the previous quarter.

Industries with highest percentage of new hires

In the 3rd Quarter of 1994, newly hired workers accounted for over 36 percent of the construction industry's total payroll, the highest percent of any industry. Nearly 32 percent of the manufacturing industry's payroll, and 29% of the retail trade industry's payroll consisted of newly hired employees. (See Figure 3.)

Top occupations for 3rd Quarter 1994 new hires

Not unexpectedly, the top occupation for summer new hires was cannery workers, including seafood processors, with 6,711 summer new hires. (See Table 2.) The majority of other top occupations for new hires were retail, service, or construction related. Most of the service and retail-related occupations on the top 20 list experienced declines in new hires from spring to summer, while construction-related and seafood processing jobs experienced increases.

Top 20 Occupations for New Hires 3rd Quarter 1994

Rank 3Q94	Occupation	New Hires 3Q94	Change from 2Q94
1	Cannery Workers, Seafood Processing	6,711	2,578
2	Misc. Manual Occups.	2,775	194
3	Construction Laborers	2,706	388
4	Sales Clerks	2,506	-491
5	Carpenters	2,135	666
6	Waiters & Waitresses	2,057	-154
7	General Office Workers	2,027	-273
8	Janitors & Cleaners	1,607	58
9	Cashiers	1,494	-223
10	Misc. Food & Beverage Preparers	1,325	-148
11	Maids & Housemen	1,066	-169
12	Kitchen Wkrs., Food Preparation	1,004	-234
13	Electricians	828	288
14	Food Counter & Related, Cafeteria	782	-26
15	Receptionists	722	66
16	Fast Food Prep & Service	674	8
17	Misc. Freight, Stock, & Material Movers	665	-87
18	Guards & Police, Except Public	639	305
19	Attendants, Amusement & Recreation	637	83
20	Secretaries	622	15

Note: Occupations were not reported by the employer for 7,987 out of 75,628 new hires.

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

**Alaska New Hires 3rd Qtr 1994
Percent That Did Not Receive a PFD 1/
in 1994 By Industry**



1/ Permanent Fund Dividend
2/ Includes seafood processing.
3/ Includes all employees of publicly-owned institutions.

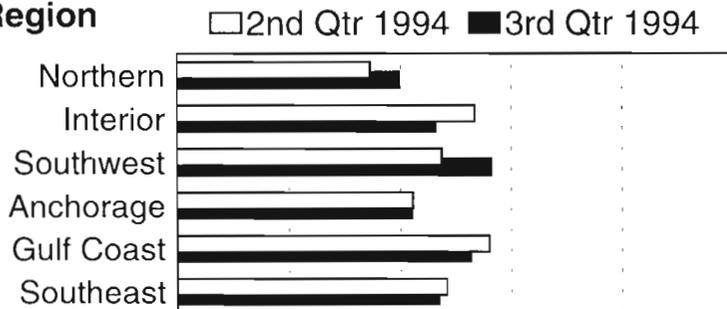
Quarter-to-quarter comparisons are not valid since Permanent Fund Dividend data is only available on an annual basis.

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

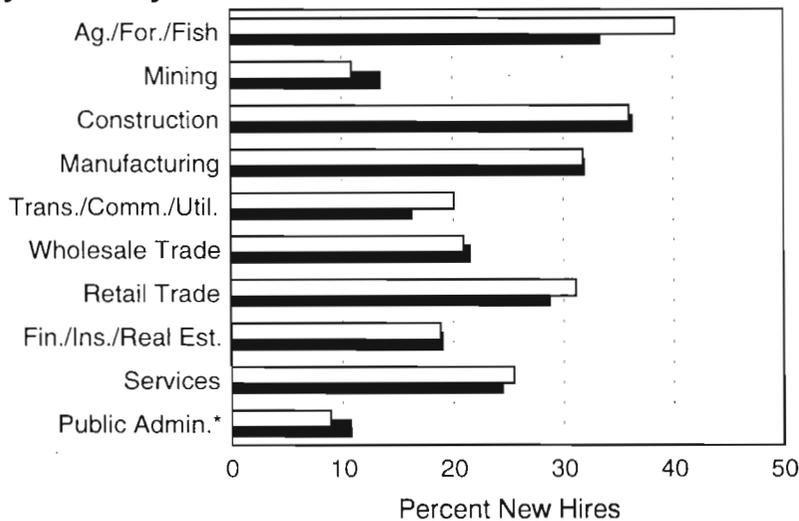
Figure • 3

Percent New Hires

By Region



By Industry



Notes: *Includes all employees of publicly-owned institutions.

An employee's region is determined by his or her place of employment; if the place of employment is unknown, the employee's region is determined by the location of his or her employer.

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

Methodology

The new hires series is produced by matching Occupational Data Base files, Alaska Department of Labor wage files, and Permanent Fund Dividend files keyed on employer numbers and employee social security numbers. This match is made for the report quarter and the four previous quarters. Each employer's full listing of employees is considered for the report quarter. If an employee worked for the employer in any of the previous four quarters, he or she is considered continuously employed or a seasonal rehire and is excluded from the new hires subset; otherwise, the employee is defined as a new hire for that employer.

A worker can be counted as a new hire for more than one employer during the report quarter, but not more than once for the same employer. This method purposely treats the turnover of an existing job as a new hire. The new hires series is designed to measure job opportunities provided by the combined effect of turnover and job growth.

An employee's region is set by his or her actual place of employment, unless that information is not provided by the employer. Historically, about 10 percent of employees' place of employment is left unreported by employers. In that case, the employee's region is determined by the location of the employer.

More Alaskans Employed in April

by John Boucher

Alaska's statewide unemployment rate moved sharply downward in April, falling one full percentage point to 7.2%. The 7.2% rate translated into just over 22,000 unemployed Alaskans in April, 2,400 fewer than in March. April's statewide unemployment statistics continued the recent pattern of rates being significantly below the rate posted a year ago. Last April the unemployment rate in Alaska was 8.5%, with more than 25,600 unemployed. (See Table 4.)

Despite the drop in the statewide rate, Alaska's unemployment rate remains above the national rate. The U.S. civilian not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in April was 5.6%. The relatively strong national economy has had some benefits for Alaska's unemployment picture. The low national unemployment rate has slowed the flow of job-seekers to Alaska, and eased the upward pressure on unemployment that new job-seekers place on the job market.

Regional unemployment rates showed that the Southeast and Interior regions were the catalysts for the April drop in the jobless rate. Southeast's unemployment rate dropped two percentage points, while Interior's rate dropped nearly one and one-half points. Warmer than normal weather brought Southeast out of the winter doldrums. Construction crews, loggers and to a lesser extent the visitor industry added employees in April. Southeast's seafood processing sector was also boosted by herring openings in Sitka and Ketchikan. Interior firms were preparing for the tourism season and another solid year in the construction industry.

While the unemployment statistics showed an economy heating up for the summer, wage and salary employment statistics point to a tepid economic performance. Employment grew by 2,000 jobs during April. The job gain resulted from a broad-based employment gain offset by employment losses in Alaska's seafood processing sector. Retailers, construction and tourist-related ser-

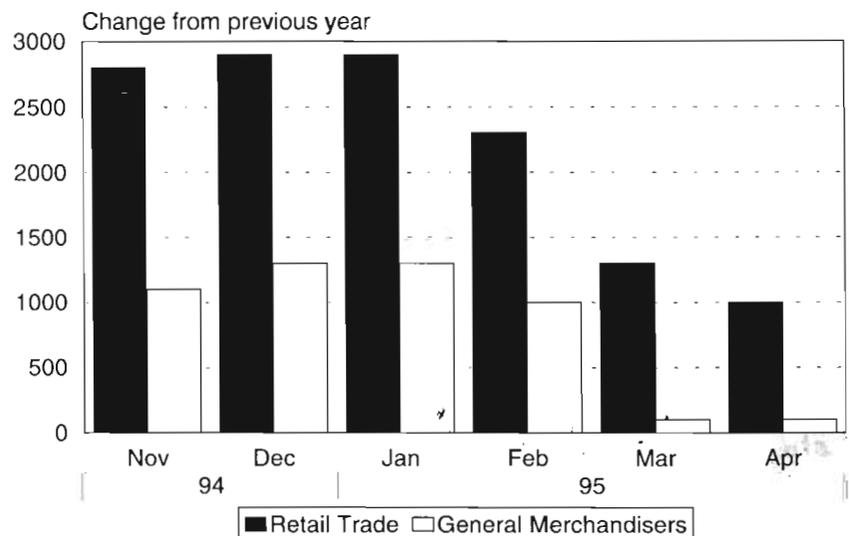
vices firms like hotels led the job gainers in April. Employment losses were primarily at seafood processing plants in Kodiak and Western Alaska as seafood processors geared down from the winter fishery. (See Table 3.)

Wage and salary employment growth has steadily slowed during the past several months as oil industry layoffs and a slower retail trade sector have taken the steam out of job growth. The state's economy continues moving forward, posting a gain of 3,100 jobs compared to last April. That calculates to a 1.2% growth rate over the year, which is less than half the 2.8% growth rate posted in 1994. Job losses in Alaska's oil industry continue to be the primary drag on the state's economy. More than 1,200 jobs have been lost in the oil patch since April of last year. (See Table 1.)

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

Figure • 1

General Merchandisers' Growth Slows Statewide Retail Trade & General Merchandise Employment



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

T a b l e • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska	p/	r/	Changes from			Municipality of Anchorage	p/	r/	Changes from		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94		4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	255,000	253,000	251,900	2,000	3,100	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	119,200	118,200	118,300	1,000	900
Goods-producing	35,700	36,500	35,600	-800	100	Goods-producing	10,800	10,500	10,900	300	-100
Mining	9,300	9,400	10,500	-100	-1,200	Mining	3,000	3,000	3,500	0	-500
Construction	10,900	10,100	10,700	800	200	Construction	5,800	5,600	5,500	200	300
Manufacturing	15,500	17,000	14,400	-1,500	1,100	Manufacturing	2,000	1,900	1,900	100	100
Durable Goods	3,000	2,700	3,200	300	-200	Service-producing	108,400	107,700	107,400	700	1,000
Lumber & Wood Products	2,200	1,900	2,400	300	-200	Transportation	12,200	12,100	12,300	100	-100
Nondurable Goods	12,500	14,300	11,200	-1,800	1,300	Air Transportation	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0
Seafood Processing	9,100	11,100	8,000	-2,000	1,100	Communications	2,500	2,400	2,400	100	100
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	0	0	Trade	28,300	27,900	27,900	400	400
Service-producing	219,300	216,500	216,300	2,800	3,000	Wholesale Trade	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	100
Transportation	22,600	22,300	22,400	300	200	Retail Trade	22,300	21,900	22,000	400	300
Trucking & Warehousing	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100	Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,400	4,300	4,400	100	0
Water Transportation	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0	Food Stores	3,300	3,200	3,300	100	0
Air Transportation	7,300	7,100	7,200	200	100	Eating & Drinking Places	7,800	7,500	7,600	300	200
Communications	3,800	3,700	3,800	100	0	Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,200	7,300	7,300	-100	-100
Trade	51,700	50,500	50,600	1,200	1,100	Services & Misc.	31,800	31,600	30,600	200	1,200
Wholesale Trade	8,100	8,100	8,000	0	100	Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,600	2,300	0	300
Retail Trade	43,600	42,400	42,600	1,200	1,000	Health Services	6,600	6,600	6,400	0	200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	8,800	8,500	8,700	300	100	Government	28,900	28,800	29,300	100	-400
Food Stores	7,200	7,000	6,900	200	300	Federal	10,800	10,800	11,200	0	-400
Eating & Drinking Places	14,400	13,800	13,900	600	500	State	8,400	8,500	8,400	-100	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,800	11,700	11,800	100	0	Local	9,700	9,500	9,700	200	0
Services & Misc.	58,100	57,300	56,000	800	2,100						
Hotels & Lodging Places	5,600	5,300	5,100	300	500						
Health Services	13,100	13,000	12,400	100	700						
Government	75,100	74,700	75,500	400	-400						
Federal	18,000	18,000	18,800	0	-800						
State	22,300	22,200	22,300	100	0						
Local	34,800	34,500	34,400	300	400						

T a b l e • 2

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/	r/	4/94	p/	r/	4/94	p/	r/	4/94
	4/95	3/95		4/95	3/95		4/95	3/95	
Mining	\$1,146.16	\$1,178.04	\$1,291.74	45.7	48.3	53.8	\$25.08	\$24.39	\$24.01
Construction	1,073.62	969.86	1,066.02	44.2	41.5	43.6	24.29	23.37	24.45
Manufacturing	468.46	546.83	448.91	40.7	57.2	37.1	11.51	9.56	12.10
Seafood Processing	340.70	513.86	290.85	41.6	64.8	35.0	8.19	7.93	8.31
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	651.46	625.26	638.67	35.1	33.1	34.9	18.56	18.89	18.30
Trade	411.89	396.63	375.16	34.7	33.9	33.2	11.87	11.70	11.30
Wholesale	645.13	627.51	602.95	38.7	38.1	38.7	16.67	16.47	15.58
Retail	368.15	353.51	332.63	33.9	33.1	32.2	10.86	10.68	10.33
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	482.17	461.32	454.92	36.5	35.9	34.7	13.21	12.85	13.11

Notes to Tables 1-3:

Tables 1&2- Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 3- Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

p/ denotes preliminary estimates.

r/ denotes revised estimates.

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

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

Benchmark: March 1994

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Southeast Region	p/	r/	Changes from		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	34,200	32,800	33,650	1,400	550
Goods-producing	5,250	4,400	5,150	850	100
Mining	200	200	150	0	50
Construction	1,550	1,250	1,450	300	100
Manufacturing	3,500	2,950	3,550	550	-50
Durable Goods	1,650	1,400	1,850	250	-200
Lumber & Woods Products	1,550	1,300	1,750	250	-200
Nondurable Goods	1,850	1,550	1,700	300	150
Seafood Processing	1,100	800	1,000	300	100
Pulp Mills	550	500	500	50	50
Service-producing	28,950	28,400	28,500	550	450
Transportation	2,700	2,500	2,650	200	50
Trade	6,350	6,300	6,050	50	300
Wholesale Trade	500	500	550	0	-50
Retail Trade	5,850	5,800	5,500	50	350
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,450	1,350	1,350	100	100
Services & Misc.	6,000	5,950	5,800	50	200
Government	12,450	12,300	12,650	150	-200
Federal	1,850	1,800	2,000	50	-150
State	5,550	5,500	5,500	50	50
Local	5,050	5,000	5,150	50	-100

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	p/	r/	Changes from		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	129,150	127,950	127,850	1,200	1,300
Goods-producing	11,450	11,100	11,500	350	-50
Mining	3,200	3,200	3,650	0	-450
Construction	6,150	5,950	5,900	200	250
Manufacturing	2,100	1,950	1,950	150	150
Service-producing	117,700	116,850	116,350	850	1,350
Transportation	13,150	13,000	13,150	150	0
Trade	30,850	30,300	30,400	550	450
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,650	7,700	7,700	-50	-50
Services & Misc.	34,000	33,950	32,750	50	1,250
Government	32,050	31,900	32,350	150	-300
Federal	10,900	10,900	11,350	0	-450
State	9,300	9,300	9,250	0	50
Local	11,850	11,700	11,750	150	100

Gulf Coast Region

Gulf Coast Region	p/	r/	Changes from		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	25,350	25,100	25,050	250	300
Goods-producing	5,950	6,500	6,000	-550	-50
Mining	950	950	1,150	0	-200
Construction	1,000	900	950	100	50
Manufacturing	4,000	4,650	3,900	-650	100
Seafood Processing	2,750	3,500	2,600	-750	150
Service-producing	19,400	18,600	19,050	800	350
Transportation	2,200	2,100	2,150	100	50
Trade	4,750	4,350	4,600	400	150
Wholesale Trade	600	550	550	50	50
Retail Trade	4,150	3,800	4,050	350	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	650	650	650	0	0
Services & Misc.	5,100	4,850	4,950	250	150
Government	6,700	6,650	6,700	50	0
Federal	600	600	600	0	0
State	1,750	1,750	1,800	0	-50
Local	4,350	4,300	4,300	50	50

Interior Region	p/	r/	Changes from:		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	34,350	33,350	33,750	1,000	600
Goods-producing	2,550	2,300	2,550	250	0
Mining	650	700	800	-50	-150
Construction	1,300	1,050	1,150	250	150
Manufacturing	600	550	600	50	0
Service-producing	31,800	31,050	31,200	750	600
Transportation	2,600	2,550	2,500	50	100
Trade	7,250	7,000	7,050	250	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Services & Misc.	7,700	7,400	7,500	300	200
Government	13,150	13,000	13,050	150	100
Federal	3,600	3,600	3,700	0	-100
State	4,950	4,850	4,850	100	100
Local	4,600	4,550	4,500	50	100

Fairbanks North Star Borough

Fairbanks North Star Borough	p/	r/	Changes from:		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,100	29,300	29,450	800	650
Goods-producing	2,300	2,100	2,300	200	0
Mining	550	600	650	-50	-100
Construction	1,200	1,000	1,100	200	100
Manufacturing	550	500	550	50	0
Service-producing	27,800	27,200	27,150	600	650
Transportation	2,150	2,050	2,000	100	150
Trucking & Warehousing	450	450	450	0	0
Air Transportation	600	650	550	-50	50
Communications	300	250	300	50	0
Trade	6,750	6,600	6,550	150	200
Wholesale Trade	800	750	700	50	100
Retail Trade	5,950	5,850	5,850	100	100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,200	1,150	1,200	50	0
Food Stores	750	700	700	50	50
Eating & Drinking Places	2,200	2,150	2,150	50	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,000	1,050	50	0
Services & Misc.	7,100	7,000	6,850	100	250
Government	10,750	10,550	10,700	200	50
Federal	3,000	3,000	3,100	0	-100
State	4,700	4,600	4,600	100	100
Local	3,050	2,950	3,000	100	50

Southwest Region

Southwest Region	p/	r/	Changes from:		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,200	18,800	16,450	-1,600	750
Goods-producing	5,500	7,050	4,700	-1,550	800
Seafood Processing	5,200	6,750	4,350	-1,550	850
Service-producing	11,700	11,750	11,750	-50	-50
Government	5,800	5,850	6,100	-50	-300
Federal	800	800	950	0	-150
State	450	500	500	-50	-50
Local	4,550	4,550	4,650	0	-100

Northern Region

Northern Region	p/	r/	Changes from:		
	4/95	3/95	4/94	3/95	4/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,750	14,900	15,100	-150	-350
Goods-producing	5,000	5,050	5,900	-50	-900
Mining	4,300	4,350	4,950	-50	-650
Service-producing	9,750	9,850	9,200	-100	550
Government	4,900	4,950	4,550	-50	350
Federal	250	250	200	0	50
State	300	350	350	-50	-50
Local	4,350	4,350	4,000	0	350

Merchandiser cutbacks affect retail trade

April statistics marked the first anniversary of the opening of the last of the large general merchandise outlets in the greater Anchorage area. This is a significant milestone because new stores are now less of a factor in the retail trade employment statistics. As recently as February, Alaska's general merchandise sector was showing year-to-year growth of 1,000 jobs. (See Figure 1.) State-wide, the year-to-year gain in general merchandisers is now down to 100 jobs and Anchorage is showing no gain in that sector. Many of the recent entrants have cut back staffing levels from a year ago, reflecting the increasing competition in the retail sector in Anchorage and elsewhere in the state. However, the slowdown has not stopped some retailers from stepping up the pace in the battle for consumer dollars in Anchorage. In May, Fred Meyer opened a refurbished and expanded store which dramatically increased that retailer's presence in midtown Anchorage.

State spending shrinks, public employment follows

The state's operating and capital budgets for fiscal year 1996, which begins in July, show cuts from last year's spending levels. Combined, the capital and operating budgets will shrink about 3% from the 1995 fiscal year level. The decline in state funding will be felt in many sectors, from the number of state and local government employees to construction contractors providing services to the state. The new state fiscal year will probably not bring any dramatic changes in the level of public sector employment, but the effects of inflation will take its toll on both state and local government employment. The University of Alaska may fare slightly better than other segments of state government because it has managed to enhance its revenue base despite a smaller commitment from the state's general fund.

Mining resumes in Southeast

Ending months of speculation, Greens Creek Mine announced that they would return to full operations by January of 1997. If employment returns to preclosure levels, that will mean an additional 150 mining jobs in Juneau. The announcement came on the heels of a deal with the federal government that extends the life of the mine by expanding

Table • 4

Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

	Percent Unemployed		
	p/	r/	
Not Seasonally Adjusted	4/95	3/95	4/94
United States	5.6	5.7	6.2
Alaska Statewide	7.2	8.2	8.5
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	6.0	6.7	7.1
Municipality of Anchorage	5.3	5.8	6.3
MatSu Borough	9.7	11.5	11.7
Gulf Coast Region	11.1	12.0	13.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	12.4	14.6	13.9
Kodiak Island Borough	8.4	4.5	13.2
Valdez-Cordova	9.8	11.0	10.8
Interior Region	8.4	9.8	9.9
Denali Borough	9.8	14.6	13.0
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	7.8	8.9	9.1
Southeast Fairbanks	12.9	15.5	15.0
Yukon-Koyukuk	13.1	18.0	16.6
Northern Region	9.4	10.5	11.1
Nome	12.4	13.0	13.7
North Slope Borough	2.0	3.3	3.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	14.9	16.3	17.6
Southeast Region	7.0	9.0	8.7
Haines Borough	11.8	14.6	13.2
Juneau Borough	5.3	6.2	5.9
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7.4	9.7	8.5
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketch.	9.3	13.7	13.5
Sitka Borough	4.6	6.4	11.6
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	11.0	14.3	11.8
Wrangell-Petersburg	10.9	13.7	9.9
Yakutat Borough	12.1	9.4	18.6
Southwest Region	6.1	6.7	7.4
Aleutians East Borough	3.5	1.5	5.5
Aleutians West	1.4	1.5	2.1
Bethel	9.5	9.5	9.2
Bristol Bay Borough	4.0	7.5	7.2
Dillingham	7.1	8.0	10.6
Lake & Peninsula Borough	7.9	10.1	8.6
Wade Hampton	9.0	13.1	12.9
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	5.8	5.5	6.4
Alaska Statewide	6.7	7.2	8.1

p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates
Benchmark: March 1994

- **Comparisons between** different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- **The official definition of unemployment** currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor; Research & Analysis Section.

available reserves. In other mining news in the region, Echo Bay Alaska and Coeur Alaska struck a deal in which Echo Bay sold its interest in the Kensington project. Coeur Alaska hopes to overcome permitting and legal challenges this year and begin construction on the project by next year.

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Alaska Economic Regions

The mission of the Alaska Employment Service is to promote employment and economic stability by responding to the needs of employers and job seekers.