

News Release

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OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES, 2001

Legal, and Architecture and Engineering occupations are among the highest paying occupations in Alaska, according to an annual survey of employers in the state. Estimates of employment and wages have been produced from responses to the annual Occupational Employment Statistics Survey, a federal-state cooperative program between the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The survey does not cover workers who are self-employed.

The average wage for occupations within the Legal occupational group is \$33.38 per hour or \$69,440 per year. In Architecture and Engineering, the average wage is \$31.31 per hour or \$65,120 per year. In contrast, wages are lowest in Food Preparation and Serving Related occupations. The average wage for occupations in this group is \$9.39 per hour or \$19,530 per year. Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance occupations are second lowest of the 21 occupational groups listed with an average hourly rate of \$11.65 or \$24,230 per year.

The largest size occupational group is Office and Administrative Support occupations, which represents 49,360 jobs—nearly 18 percent of the 280,000 wage and salary jobs in the state in 2001. The average rate of pay for this group is \$14.85 per hour or \$30,900 per year. The smallest of the 21 groups listed is Legal with an estimated employment of 2,290. Approximately one-half of all jobs in Alaska are either administrative, sales, transportation, food preparation or education-related.

In addition to average hourly and annual wages, the Occupational Employment Statistics survey also provides wage information for typical entry and experienced workers for each occupational group, as well as for 464 detailed occupations statewide. Occupational wage information is also available for the Anchorage MSA and for the Southeast, Railbelt, and Western regions of the state.

Complete wage information from the 2001 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey is available on the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development web site at <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>

Alaska 2001 Wage Rates and Employment Estimates by Occupational Group

| Major Occupational Group | Employment | Percent | Mean or "Average" Wages | | | |
|--|------------|------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|----------|
| | | Employment | Hourly | Entry | Experienced | Annual |
| Legal | 2,290 | 0.8% | \$33.38 | \$18.35 | \$40.90 | \$69,440 |
| Architecture and Engineering | 6,430 | 2.3% | \$31.31 | \$19.84 | \$37.04 | \$65,120 |
| Management | 20,380 | 7.3% | \$30.69 | \$15.80 | \$38.13 | \$63,830 |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical | 11,160 | 4.0% | \$27.67 | \$16.69 | \$33.17 | \$57,560 |
| Business and Financial Operations | 8,610 | 3.1% | \$24.98 | \$15.68 | \$29.62 | \$51,950 |
| Computer and Mathematical | 3,390 | 1.2% | \$24.95 | \$16.10 | \$29.37 | \$51,890 |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science | 5,820 | 2.1% | \$24.59 | \$15.24 | \$29.27 | \$51,160 |
| Construction and Extraction | 19,820 | 7.1% | \$22.99 | \$14.24 | \$27.36 | \$47,820 |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair | 14,480 | 5.2% | \$21.78 | \$13.04 | \$26.15 | \$45,300 |
| Education, Training, and Library | 20,660 | 7.4% | \$20.43 | \$12.08 | \$24.60 | \$42,490 |
| Production | 9,620 | 3.4% | \$18.53 | \$8.65 | \$23.46 | \$38,530 |
| Transportation and Material Moving | 21,770 | 7.8% | \$17.84 | \$9.11 | \$22.21 | \$37,110 |
| Protective Service | 9,570 | 3.4% | \$17.43 | \$9.96 | \$21.16 | \$36,250 |
| Community and Social Service | 5,740 | 2.1% | \$17.18 | \$11.56 | \$19.98 | \$35,720 |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media | 2,750 | 1.0% | \$15.61 | \$8.45 | \$19.19 | \$32,460 |
| Office and Administrative Support | 49,360 | 17.7% | \$14.85 | \$9.77 | \$17.40 | \$30,900 |
| Healthcare Support | 4,650 | 1.7% | \$14.25 | \$10.67 | \$16.05 | \$29,650 |
| Sales and Related | 24,770 | 8.9% | \$12.87 | \$7.60 | \$15.50 | \$26,770 |
| Personal Care and Service | 6,320 | 2.3% | \$12.22 | \$7.90 | \$14.38 | \$25,420 |
| Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance | 9,790 | 3.5% | \$11.65 | \$8.09 | \$13.42 | \$24,230 |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related | 21,600 | 7.7% | \$9.39 | \$6.45 | \$10.86 | \$19,530 |

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

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