

ALASKA ECONOMIC  
**TRENDS**

February  
1997

*THE* **GENDER GAP**



A SHOWCASE OF ALASKA'S FRONTIER  
**COPPER RIVER**

**ALASKA'S ECONOMY  
CONTINUES MODEST GROWTH**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR • TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



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# Alaska's Gender Gap Narrows

by Jeff Hadland and Todd Mosher

Although Alaska male workers, on average, continued to earn significantly more than female workers in 1995, the earnings gap between the two has narrowed significantly since 1990. Many factors can account for differences in average earnings between the genders, such as education, hours worked, or length on the job. But female workers earn less than male workers in virtually all age, industry and occupation categories, including typically female-dominated occupations.

Overall, female workers in 1995 earned 65.6% as much as men earned, a 4.4 percentage point increase since 1990. (See Table 1.) The average Alaskan male earned over \$10,000 more in wage income in 1995 than the average Alaskan female's earnings of \$19,182.

The percentage of Alaska workers that are female declined slightly from 47.3% in 1990 to 47.0% in 1995, a surprising decline given the expectation that women would continue to increase their share of the labor force. Despite a slightly lower share of employment, females' share of total wage and salary income rose from 35.5% in 1990 to 36.7% in 1995.

## Gender gap by age group

Females comprised 47% of all workers in 1995, little changed from 1990. In every age group, females were employed at approximately the same rate, exceeding males as a percentage of total workers only in the 75 and older group. (See Figure 1.) In terms of average earnings by age group, females earned less than males in every age category. (See Figure 2.) Females earned nearly as much as males in the 16 to 18 age group, but the gap widens gradually through the age groups, with the "gender gap" greatest in the 55 to 59 and 65 to 74 age groups. (See Figure 3.)

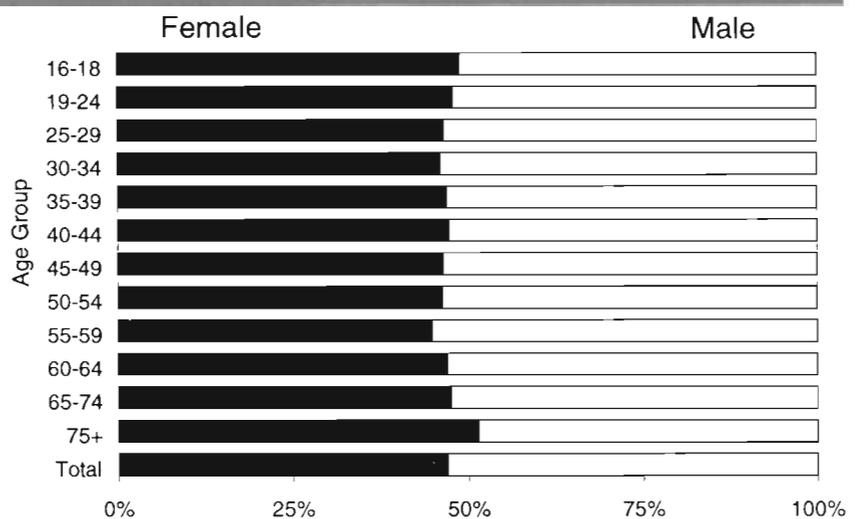
Table • 1

## Wage and Salary Employment and Earnings— Alaska, 1990 and 1995

Employment (%) Distribution by Gender		1990	1995	Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.
Male		52.7	53.0	
Female		47.3	47.0	
Annual Wage Income Distribution by Gender (%)		1990	1995	
Male		64.5	63.3	
Female		35.5	36.7	
Average Annual Wage Income (\$)		1990	1995	
Male		27,655	29,261	
Female		16,934	19,182	
Total		22,580	24,527	
Female/Male Wage Ratio		61.2	65.6	

Figure • 1

## Gender Distribution of Total Employment by Age Group—Alaska, 1995



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

Jeff Hadland is an economist and Todd Mosher a labor economist with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. They are located in Juneau.

## Workers and Earnings by Industry and Gender-Alaska 1995

	Male Workers	Female Workers	Percent Female	Avg. Male Earnings	Avg. Female Earnings	Female/ Male Ratio
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries						
Crops	108	149	58.0	4,907	6,196	126.2
Livestock	.	.	.	.	.	.
Agricultural Services	467	475	50.4	12,804	12,632	98.7
Forestry	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fishing, Hunting, Trapping	358	139	28.0	22,942	14,924	65.0
Mining						
Metal	879	124	12.4	41,859	31,951	76.3
Coal	.	.	.	.	.	.
Oil and Gas	7,862	1,182	13.1	60,206	45,297	75.2
Nonmetal, Nonfuel	311	47	13.1	29,676	19,422	65.4
Construction						
Building	4,865	592	10.8	23,129	16,433	71.0
Heavy	4,072	683	14.4	35,868	21,554	60.1
Special Trades	7,257	923	11.3	26,157	15,969	61.1
Manufacturing						
Food Processing (Primarily Seafood)	4,305	2,343	35.2	16,080	10,304	64.1
Textiles	.	.	.	.	.	.
Apparel	36	24	40.0	13,147	14,789	112.5
Lumber, Wood	1,562	257	14.1	26,868	14,058	52.3
Furniture	.	.	.	.	.	.
Paper	894	131	12.8	41,094	25,267	61.5
Printing	868	891	50.7	25,689	18,036	70.2
Chemicals	.	.	.	.	.	.
Petroleum Refining	291	89	23.4	69,012	39,588	57.4
Rubber, Miscellaneous	.	.	.	.	.	.
Leather	.	.	.	.	.	.
Concrete	251	33	11.6	25,844	14,095	54.5
Primary Metals	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fabricated Metals	243	31	11.3	26,866	20,567	76.6
Machinery	94	12	11.3	40,273	19,965	49.6
Electrical Machinery	.	.	.	.	.	.
Transportation Equipment	224	36	13.8	22,795	16,661	73.1
Measuring Instruments	.	.	.	.	.	.
Miscellaneous	47	41	46.6	20,203	13,364	66.1
Transportation						
Local Transit	1,194	915	43.4	11,375	8,791	77.3
Motor Freight	2,784	637	18.6	29,679	20,526	69.2
Water Transportation	1,907	487	20.3	26,212	15,726	60.0
Air Transportation	5,088	2,558	33.5	31,156	18,127	58.2
Pipelines	.	.	.	.	.	.
Transportation Services	598	1,148	65.8	21,618	17,166	79.4
Communications	2,271	1,627	41.7	45,204	29,534	65.3
Other Utilities	1,925	734	27.6	47,876	32,640	68.2

(continued next page)

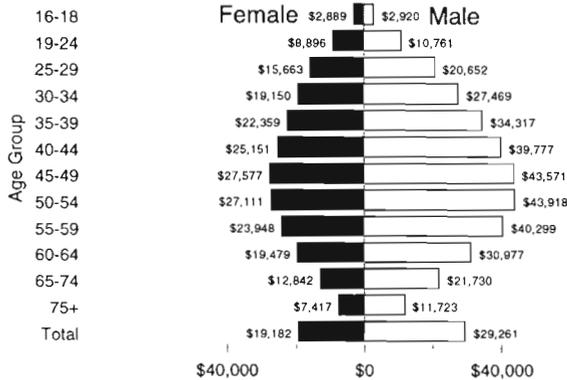
## Workers and Earnings by Industry and Gender-Alaska 1995 (continued)

	Male Workers	Female Workers	Percent Female	Avg. Male Earnings	Avg. Female Earnings	Female/ Male Ratio	
Wholesale Trade							*Nondisclosable information. Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.
Durable	3,624	1,271	26.0	31,744	19,638	61.9	
Nondurable	3,102	1,457	32.0	26,946	17,968	66.7	
Retail Trade							
Building Materials/Hardware	1,524	685	31.0	23,462	15,613	66.5	
General Merchandise	4,148	5,560	57.3	15,058	10,834	72.0	
Food Stores	4,308	4,517	51.2	18,750	13,753	73.3	
Auto Dealers/Service Stations	4,103	1,417	25.7	24,668	14,615	59.2	
Apparel	378	1,438	79.2	11,653	8,539	73.3	
Furniture	1,020	622	37.9	17,192	14,082	81.9	
Eating/Drinking	8,520	9,670	53.2	10,030	7,494	74.7	
Miscellaneous Retail	2,859	4,316	60.2	18,807	10,833	57.6	
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate							
Banking	872	3,557	80.3	38,268	22,205	58.0	
Credit Agencies	139	281	66.9	40,072	32,963	82.3	
Brokers	138	135	49.5	76,800	32,013	41.7	
Insurance	250	596	70.4	60,809	33,930	55.8	
Insurance Agents	225	832	78.7	46,698	24,781	53.1	
Real Estate	1,689	1,322	43.9	16,058	14,913	92.9	
Holding/Investment Companies	1,160	1,356	53.9	24,178	18,457	76.3	
Services							
Hotels	2,779	3,818	57.9	14,148	10,266	72.6	
Personal Services	488	1,819	78.8	15,623	9,759	62.5	
Business Services	4,447	3,894	46.7	20,590	13,858	67.3	
Auto Repair	2,016	601	23.0	17,977	12,085	67.2	
Miscellaneous Repair	774	177	18.6	25,779	14,738	57.2	
Motion Pictures	502	602	54.5	7,170	5,945	82.9	
Recreation Services	1,903	2,054	51.9	9,928	8,457	85.2	
Health Services	2,447	11,020	81.8	37,246	26,034	69.9	
Legal Services	392	1,471	79.0	46,951	28,464	60.6	
Education Services	460	619	57.4	19,238	15,253	79.3	
Social Services	1,844	5,314	74.2	16,560	13,942	84.2	
Museums	39	86	68.8	15,006	10,215	68.1	
Membership Organizations	2,834	4,275	60.1	15,292	15,032	98.3	
Engineering, Accounting & Management	4,731	3,173	40.1	34,994	21,734	62.1	
Private Households	20	228	91.9	35,534	10,030	28.2	
Miscellaneous Services	122	64	34.4	35,874	16,465	45.9	
Nonclassifiable Private Sector	220	155	41.3	14,019	10,182	72.6	
Total Private Sector	116,818	95,196	44.9	27,635	16,509	59.7	
State Government	11,560	11,196	49.2	41,408	29,711	71.8	
Local Government	16,501	21,913	57.0	32,422	25,509	78.7	
Total	144,879	128,305	47.0	29,279	19,198	65.6	

Figure • 2

### Male and Female Average Annual Wage Income by Age Group—Alaska, 1995

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



When comparing 1990 to 1995, both males and females showed growth in average annual wage incomes, but the average annual wage income of females grew faster than that of males for every age group except those 75 and older (the smallest group). For those aged 25 to 39, the average annual wage income of males actually declined slightly, while females in this age range showed slow growth of about six percent over the entire five-year period. (See Figure 4.)

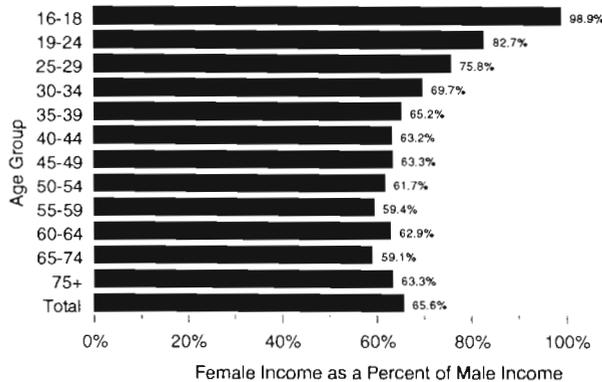
### Industry makes a difference

There is a significant difference in average earnings, total earnings and percentage of workers by industry for males and females. (See Figures 5, 6, 7.) Females comprise significantly more than 50 percent of the workers in finance, insurance and real estate; services; and local government, while males hold between 85 and 90 percent of all jobs in the oil and gas, and mining and construction industries. (See Table 2.)

Figure • 3

### Male and Female Average Annual Wage Income Ratios by Age Group—Alaska, 1995

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

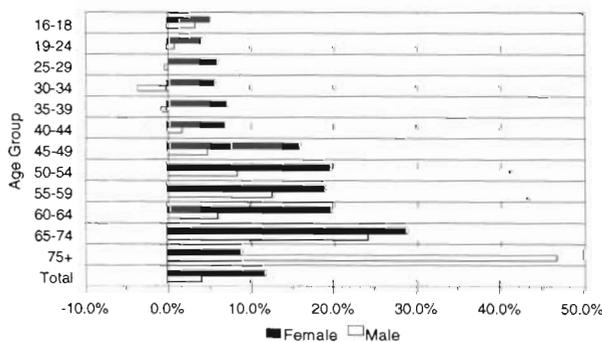


In terms of earnings, females have the highest average earnings in the oil and gas, insurance, credit agencies, other utilities, and brokers industry categories. Females had the highest total private sector earnings in health services, banking, social services and eating and drinking industries. Alaska's female wage and salary workers have found employment opportunities in both state and local government. More than 25 percent of all Alaska female wage and salary workers are employed in these two government sectors.

Figure • 4

### Male and Female Percent Change in Average Wage Income by Age Group—Alaska, 1990-1995

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



### Male and female dominated occupations

The top occupations for men and women are very different. (See Tables 3 and 4.) The most common occupations for Alaska females are office occupations, sales clerks

## Top 50 Occupations for Male Employment Alaska, 1995

Occupation	Employment			Average Annual Wage Income		
	Female	Male	Female %	Female	Male	Female/ Male Ratio
Manual Occupations, N.E.C.	1,098	4,683	19.0	7,268	11,584	62.7
Carpenters	119	4,183	2.8	12,631	19,909	63.4
Construction Laborers	433	4,005	9.8	10,129	15,837	64.0
Janitors and Cleaners	2,147	3,894	35.5	12,574	13,866	90.7
Sales Clerks	6,234	3,063	67.1	8,850	12,624	70.1
Cannery Workers, Incl. Seafood Processing	1,521	2,568	37.2	7,850	10,419	75.4
Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, N.E.	281	2,430	10.4	20,313	20,965	96.9
General Office Occupations	8,811	2,281	79.4	16,063	17,957	89.4
Cashiers	3,398	1,870	64.5	9,967	11,182	89.1
<b>Misc. Food &amp; Beverage Preparers Occupations</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>39.0</b>	<b>9,395</b>	<b>7,947</b>	<b>118.2</b>
Truck Drivers, Heavy	99	1,733	5.4	23,628	30,758	76.8
Electricians	49	1,722	2.8	33,584	40,597	82.7
Operating Engineers	117	1,718	6.4	31,264	40,239	77.7
Truck Drivers, Light	294	1,683	14.9	10,209	19,212	53.1
General Managers and Other Top Executives	882	1,670	34.6	35,353	65,037	54.4
Automobile Mechanics	36	1,597	2.2	15,571	27,072	57.5
Stock Handlers and Baggers	470	1,578	22.9	6,824	12,057	56.6
Mechanics and Repairers, N.E.C.	159	1,564	9.2	27,105	37,515	72.2
Guards and Police, Except Public Service	285	1,375	17.2	15,772	21,814	72.3
Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters	38	1,313	2.8	23,522	33,967	69.2
Sheriffs, Bailiffs, and Other Law Officers	192	1,252	13.3	42,572	49,233	86.5
Maintenance Repairers, General Utility	74	1,237	5.6	16,898	27,498	61.5
Heavy Equipment Mechanics	5	1,230	0.4	23,930	44,418	53.9
Airlplane Pilots and Navigators	40	1,216	3.2	27,109	43,938	61.7
Stock and Inventory Clerks	649	1,203	35.0	14,348	21,979	65.3
Elementary School Teachers	3,176	1,130	73.8	36,388	38,895	93.6
Management Related Occupations, N.E.C.	1,299	1,091	54.4	30,283	51,301	59.0
<b>Combined Food Prep and Service, Fast Food</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>4,095</b>	<b>4,041</b>	<b>101.3</b>
Supervisors; Sales, Retail	933	1,065	46.7	22,110	35,649	62.0
Kitchen Workers, Food Preparation	1,398	1,064	56.8	9,988	11,341	88.1
Salespersons; N.E.C.	989	992	49.9	12,409	22,909	54.2
Officials and Administrators; Other, N.E.C.	584	977	37.4	40,214	53,601	75.0
Secondary School Teachers	1,255	962	56.6	33,968	41,839	81.2
Stevedores	82	943	8.0	7,534	17,548	42.9
Postsecondary Teachers	813	913	47.1	20,426	30,931	66.0
Misc. Plant or Systems Operators	70	903	7.2	64,718	74,975	86.3
Cooks, Restaurant	324	862	27.3	10,370	12,766	81.2
Bus Drivers	465	860	35.1	11,998	15,384	78.0
Waiters and Waitresses	3,372	845	80.0	7,534	9,670	77.9
Social Workers	1,676	842	66.6	25,152	30,737	81.8
Misc. Material Moving Equipment Operators	23	839	2.7	31,221	42,249	73.9
Civil Engineers	123	835	12.8	42,735	57,702	74.1
Garage and Service Station Related Occupations	118	809	12.7	6,479	10,283	63.0
Attendants, Amusement and Recreation Facilities	914	781	53.9	5,215	6,467	80.6
Adult Education and Other Teachers, N.E.C.	1,449	769	65.3	13,456	15,785	85.2
Excavating and Loading Machine Operators	27	747	3.5	24,080	34,481	69.8
Supervisors; Mechanics and Repairers	42	728	5.5	28,611	57,407	49.8
Managers; Administrative Services	1,266	710	64.1	32,369	52,498	61.7
Bookkeepers and Accounting and Auditing Clerks	4,165	701	85.6	21,794	26,990	80.7
Sailors and Deckhands	95	697	12.0	12,500	19,620	63.7

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

T a b l e • 4

**Top 50 Occupations for Female Employment  
—Alaska, 1995**

Occupation	Employment			Average Annual Wage Income		
	Female	Male	Female %	Female	Male	Female/ Male Ratio
General Office Occupations	8,811	2,281	79.4	16,063	17,957	89.4
Sales Clerks	6,234	3,063	67.1	8,850	12,624	70.1
Secretaries	4,741	247	95.0	22,716	21,153	107.4
Bookkeepers, Accounting and Auditing Clerks	4,165	701	85.6	21,794	26,990	80.7
Cashiers	3,398	1,870	64.5	9,967	11,182	89.1
Waiters and Waitresses	3,372	845	80.0	7,534	9,670	77.9
Elementary School Teachers	3,176	1,130	73.8	36,388	38,895	93.6
Teacher Aides	3,140	694	81.9	11,193	9,196	121.7
Registered Nurses	2,748	194	93.4	35,621	43,225	82.4
Receptionists	2,562	201	92.7	13,932	14,781	94.3
Janitors and Cleaners	2,147	3,894	35.5	12,574	13,866	90.7
Admin. Support Occupations, Including Clerical	1,839	435	80.9	19,619	22,870	85.8
Child Care Workers, Except Private Household	1,820	288	86.3	7,672	8,997	85.3
Maids and Housemen	1,818	453	80.1	9,084	12,976	70.0
Social Workers	1,676	842	66.6	25,152	30,737	81.8
Cannery Workers, Incl. Seafood Processing	1,521	2,568	37.2	7,850	10,419	75.4
Adult Education and Other Teachers, N.E.C.	1,449	769	65.3	13,456	15,785	85.2
Kitchen and Food Prep Workers	1,398	1,064	56.8	9,988	11,341	88.1
Food Counter, Fountain and Related Occupations	1,310	663	66.4	6,173	6,164	100.1
Management Related Occupations, N.E.C.	1,299	1,091	54.4	30,283	51,301	59.0
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	1,272	374	77.3	17,502	20,533	85.2
Managers; Administrative Services	1,266	710	64.1	32,369	52,498	61.7
Secondary School Teachers	1,255	962	56.6	33,968	41,839	81.2
Reservation Agents and Ticket Clerks	1,209	288	80.8	17,094	18,975	90.1
Bartenders	1,197	517	69.8	10,212	13,258	77.0
Misc. Food and Beverage Preparers	1,146	1,793	39.0	9,395	7,947	118.2
Manual Occupations, N.E.C.	1,098	4,683	19.0	7,268	11,584	62.7
Combined Food Prep and Service, Fast Food	1,074	1,083	49.8	4,095	4,041	101.3
Counter Clerks	1,031	595	63.4	8,470	13,860	61.1
Bank Tellers	1,017	93	91.6	13,820	14,140	97.7
Salespersons; N.E.C.	989	992	49.9	12,409	22,909	54.2
Supervisors; Sales, Retail	933	1,065	46.7	22,110	35,649	62.0
Attendants, Amusement and Recreation Facilities	914	781	53.9	5,215	6,467	80.6
Accountants and Auditors	906	532	63.0	38,194	49,502	77.2
General Managers and Other Top Executives	882	1,670	34.6	35,353	65,037	54.4
Teachers; Special Education	881	222	79.9	43,356	47,128	92.0
Postsecondary Teachers	813	913	47.1	20,426	30,931	66.0
Health Aides, Except Nursing	810	134	85.8	20,757	21,257	97.6
Personal Service Occupations, N.E.C.	756	420	64.3	13,295	15,722	84.6
Administrative Assistants and Officers	742	191	79.5	23,734	37,749	62.9
Technicians, N.E.C.	697	564	55.3	32,554	38,483	84.6
Salespersons; Garments and Textile Products	696	124	84.9	8,650	10,419	83.0
Supervisors; General Office Occupations	659	216	75.3	28,770	41,914	68.6
Stock and Inventory Clerks	649	1,203	35.0	14,348	21,979	65.3
Hairdressers and Cosmetologists	628	40	94.0	11,311	14,194	79.7
Information Clerks, N.E.C.	628	139	81.9	23,980	29,501	81.3
Health Technologists and Technicians, N.E.C.	610	257	70.4	23,370	31,343	74.6
Officials and Administrators; Other, N.E.C.	584	977	37.4	40,214	53,601	75.0
Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers	573	39	93.6	27,167	30,800	88.2
Dental Assistants	571	25	95.8	17,597	15,743	111.8

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

and waitresses. The most common male occupations are manual occupations (primarily seafood processing related jobs), carpenters, and construction laborers.

Of the top 50 occupations for male employment in 1995, only two had a female/male average annual wage income ratio exceeding 100%. Both were low-paying food service occupations. (See shading, Table 3.) A ratio over 100% means the average annual wage income of females was higher than that of males.

Of the top 50 occupations for female employment in 1995, less than one-eighth (six) had a female/male average annual wage income ratio above 100 percent. (See shading, Table 4.)

### Methodology

Total earnings were computed for all workers in 1995. Workers' social security numbers were matched with historical Permanent Fund Dividend files to determine the age and gender of workers. Only those workers that were eligible for Permanent Fund Dividends in one or more years since 1992 are included in the study population. Data are available for wage and salary workers in private sector, state and local government. Federal government workers, military, and self-employed are excluded. Occupation data are derived from Alaska's Occupational Data Base. The occupation in which the worker had the most earnings is used in this analysis. Average earnings include full-time and part-time earnings. Gender information was available for a total of 273,184 workers in 1995.

Figure • 5

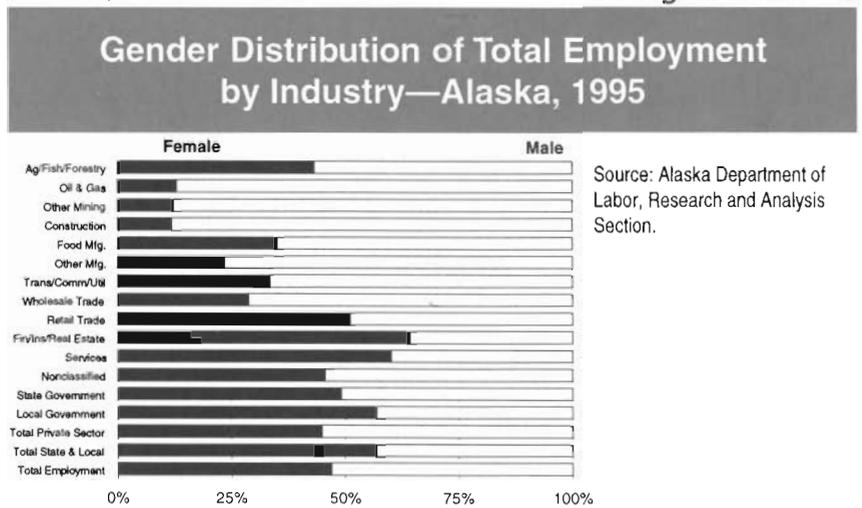


Figure • 6

### Male and Female Average Annual Wage Income by Industry—Alaska, 1995

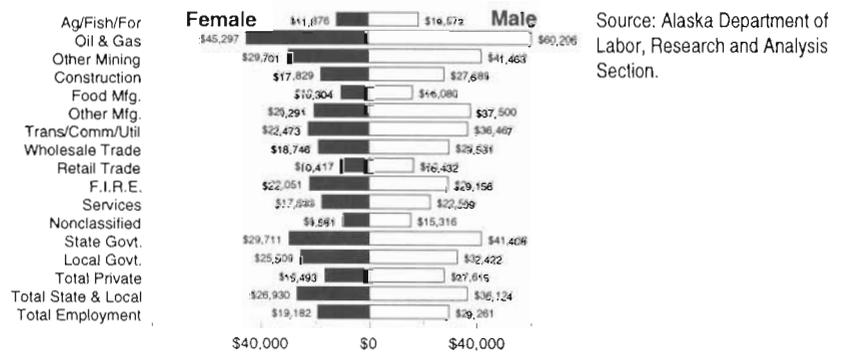
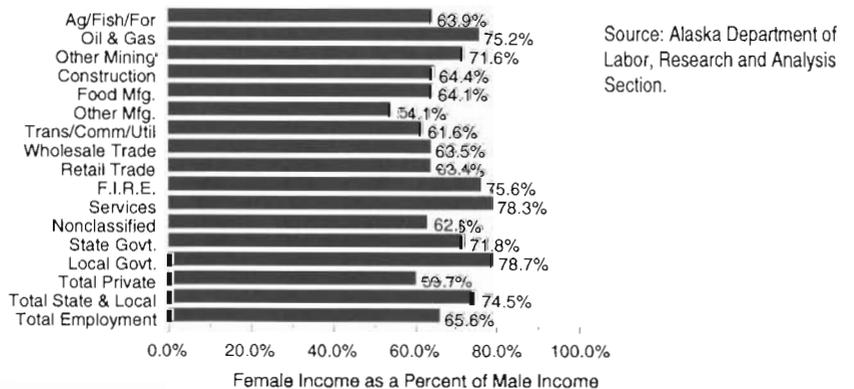


Figure • 7

### Female/Male Average Annual Wage Income Ratios by Industry—Alaska, 1995



# A Showcase of Alaska's Frontier - The Copper River Region

by Brigitta Windisch-Cole

Brigitta Windisch-Cole is a labor economist with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. She is located in Anchorage.

The geography of the Copper River region, the vast northern section of the Valdez-Cordova census area, encompasses a land-mass of 24,663 square miles. This is an area comparable in size to the state of West Virginia, but with roughly one-six-hundredth the population. No political boundaries enclose the region and no community boundaries surround any of the 14 major settlements. (See Table 1.) Neither the newer communities nor the traditional Athabascan villages, some settled over 7,000 years ago, have established local governments. Therefore, only a U.S. Census Bureau designation, subdividing rural regions into block numbering areas, identifies the region statistically as the Copper River Census Subarea. Although it is remote and sparsely populated, many travelers pass through the

region— an Alaskan display of glaciers, rich salmon streams, and four mountain ranges.

## A logistic center

Traffic routes have crossed the Copper River region since the early settlement days. Alaska's early history tells of the Athabascan Indians using the river system of the Copper River region as a travel route. The Copper River and its tributaries became home to the Ahtna people who often settled at the confluence of rivers. Some of these settlements still exist, but only about 19 percent of the region's population are American Indians. (See Table 4.)

During the gold rush years, prospectors venturing over the Chugach Mountains and using the Valdez-Eagle or Valdez-Fairbanks trails crossed paths near Gakona. After World War II, modern roadways replaced the old trails, and the new roads became the Glenn and Richardson Highways. The Glenn Highway is the main road link between Alaska's Southcentral region and the Lower 48 states. In the North-South direction, the Richardson Highway parallels the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. The pipeline traverses the Copper River region for its final 200-mile-long stretch.

## A roadhouse economy

Although two of Alaska's major roads run through the Copper River area, no large cities have developed along its highways. Over half of the population of the Copper River region resides within a 25-mile radius of the Glenn and Richardson Highway junction. Two of the largest communities, Glennallen and Copper Center, are in this area. (See Table 1.)

Glennallen, which stretches along the Glenn and Richardson Highways, has become the regional hub for the surrounding settlements. It offers travelers and the local pop-

Table • 1

### 1996 Population Estimates for the Copper River Region

CDPs are Census Designated Places	Copper River Census Subarea	3,134
* Alaska Native Village Statistical Area	Chistochina CDP*	58
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.	Chitina CDP*	82
	Copper Center CDP*	538
	Tazlina*	283
	Copporville CDP	187
	Gakona*	90
	Gakona CDP	23
	Glennallen CDP	491
	Gulkana CDP*	100
	Kenny Lake CDP	498
	McCarthy CDP	33
	Mendeltna CDP	64
	Mentasta Lake CDP*	108
	Paxson CDP	27
	Slana CDP*	61
	Tonsina CDP	45
	Remainder of Copper River Subarea	236
	Chisana	14

ulation the broadest range of services. Restaurants, retail establishments and lodging places have located along the highway. This commercial strip serves as the economic center of the Copper River region. Glennallen is also headquarters of the Copper River School District, the largest single employer in the region. Among the largest employers of the area are several Alaska Native corporations.(See Table 2.)

Copper Center, a traditional Athabaskan settlement and an economic center during the gold rush, lies a few miles south of the intersection on the west bank of the Copper River. Although about equal in size, its slightly off-road location may be the reason why economic activity has shifted to Glennallen.

**Private sector employment gains ground**

The public sector is the dominant employer in the region, employing over 30 percent of the work force. However, in 1991, more wage and salary workers were on the public sector payrolls than in 1995. (See Table 3.) For the past four years, the private sector, growing on average 6.4% per year, has fueled job growth.

Most of the growth has occurred in the trade and service sectors, particularly within the visitor industry. Tourism has been a basic sector industry for many years. Tourist traffic passes through the area en route to other popular Alaska vacation spots, such as the Denali National Park, Valdez or Anchorage. In recent years, an increasing number of visitors has selected the Copper River region as a vacation and recreational destination.

The number of visitors to the Wrangell Saint Elias National Park has more than doubled in the past 10 years. (See Figure 1.) As the largest national park in the United States, it includes nine peaks over 14,000 feet and the largest group of North American glaciers. The Malaspina Glacier is larger than the state of Rhode Island. This park has opened business opportunities for area residents.

The manufacturing industry, too, has be-

**The Largest Employers during 1995  
in the Copper River Region**

Rank	Employer	Annual Avg. Employment
1	Copper River School District	123
2	Copper River Native Association	61
3	National Park Service	39
4	Copper Valley Electric Association	26
5	Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Corp.	24
6	Crossroad Medical Center	22
6	Alaska Department of Transportation	22
7	Send International of Alaska	17
8	Ahtna Inc.	16
9	Mentasta Lake Village Traditional Council	15
9	Service Oil & Gas Inc.	15
9	Copper River Basin Regional Housing	15
10	American Village of Alaska Inc.	14
10	Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium	14

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

**Copper River Wage and Salary Employment  
1991-1995**

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total	772	796	789	802	896
Private Sector Employment	483	502	507	532	620
Agric., Forest. & Fish.	0	0	2	5	6
Construction	41	27	32	32	30
Manufacturing	0	0	0	1	30
Trans., Comm., & Util.	53	50	50	58	61
Trade	118	135	119	138	160
Wholesale	27	26	25	28	30
Retail	91	109	94	110	130
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	56	54	42	38	44
Services	213	222	254	252	278
Miscellaneous	2	10	1	1	2
Government	289	290	278	267	273
Federal	54	59	59	58	61
State	86	92	91	91	89
Local	149	139	128	118	123

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding.  
Source: Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 1

### Visitors to the Wrangell Saint Elias National Park

\* Estimate  
Source: Department of Interior, National Park Service.

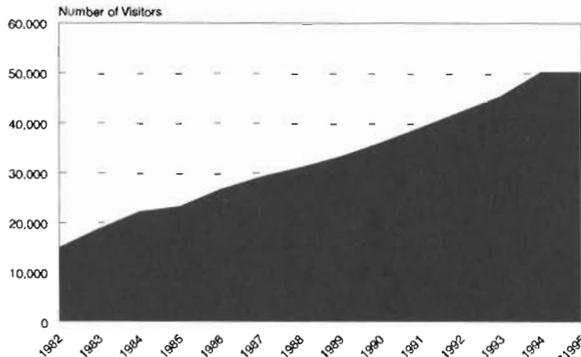
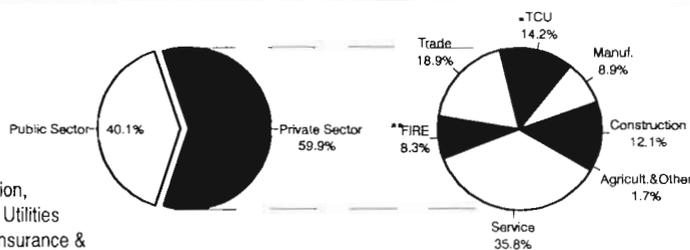


Figure • 2

### Where Copper River Residents Earned Their Paychecks in 1995

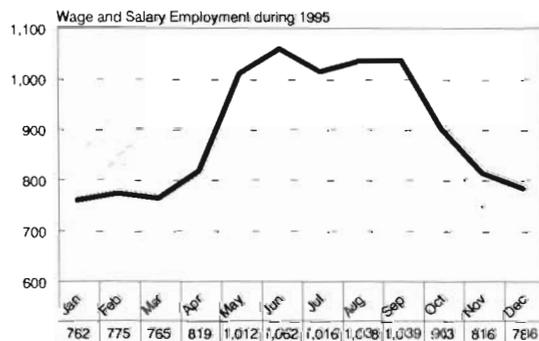


\*TCU= Transportation, Communications & Utilities  
\*\*FIRE= Finance, Insurance & Real Estate  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 3

### Employment Leaps During the Tourist Season

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



come a new provider of jobs. Logging companies, harvesting on native-owned land around Chitina, created jobs in 1995 and contributed 8.9% of the total private sector employee earnings. These jobs have added diversity to the regional employment picture. (See Figure 2.)

### Entrepreneurial opportunities arise with tourism

Self-employment has played an important role in the Copper River region. The 1990 U.S. Census indicated that the proportion of self-employed workers was higher than the statewide average. Then, 11% of the resident labor force derived its income from self-employment. (See Table 4.) With the development of tourism, this proportion may have become larger. Cottage industries, from bed and breakfasts to river-guiding businesses, have emerged in recent years. This coincides with the growing number of visitors to the Wrangell Saint Elias National Park.

Entrepreneurial activity can be observed best in McCarthy, a town of 33 residents. During the summer months, they provide a full range of services to visitors attracted to the Kennecott Mine. Visitors fly to this remote location, or travel 60 miles on the old roadbed of the Copper River-Northwestern Railway. The Kennecott Mine produced \$200 million worth of copper ore when it operated between 1911 and 1938. The mine and its ghost town have become historical landmarks.

### More visitors require more services

Although the Copper River region has abundant attractions for visitors, it has its limitations. Future expansion of the visitor industry will require infrastructure investment. Only two roads, the Nabesna and McCarthy roads, neither suited for high-volume traffic, provide access to the Wrangell Saint Elias National Park. Larger scale tourism will depend on investments in hotels and other facilities to accommodate an increasing number of visitors.

## Subsistence economies are important

Limited year-around job opportunities and lower average payroll earnings combined with high food prices explain why subsistence economies play an important role in the lives of Copper River residents. In September of 1996, food costs for a family of four in the region were about 32 percent higher than those in Anchorage. Fishing and hunting activities stretch the Copper River region's food dollars.

A large portion of the Copper River workforce relies on income earned during the short tourist season. For example, in 1995 the workforce grew by about 28 percent between the "off" season and the tourist season. (See Figure 3.) Regional unemployment rates also accentuate the seasonality of job markets.

Annual average wage and salary earnings reflect this seasonality, as well as the visitor industry's pay scales. In 1995, average annual payroll earnings in the Copper River region were \$26,305 - almost 19 percent below the statewide average. (See Table 4.)

Although seasonal employment has helped put residents on local payrolls, employment opportunities have remained scarce in the Copper River region. In 1990, the U.S. Census found that about 63 percent of persons over 16 years of age were part of the workforce compared to the statewide participation rate of about 75 percent. The regional poverty rate, showing a higher percentage than the statewide average, also reflects the lack of economic opportunities. (See Table 4.) Therefore, subsistence activities not only describe traditions or lifestyles but also are an important income supplement for the people of the Copper River region.

## A summary

A place of incredible beauty and dramatic Alaskan history, the Copper River region has yet to become an important visitor destination. The seasonality of employment and the subsistence lifestyle will continue. The visitor industry, creating payroll jobs and stimulating self-employment, has opened windows of opportunity for the Copper River region's people.

T a b l e • 4

### A Statistical Snapshot of the Copper River SubCensus Area

	Alaska	Copper River Region
Land area (square miles)	570,374	24,663
<b>Population Statistics:</b>		
Population 1996	607,800	3,134
Population growth since the 1990 census	10.5%	13.4%
<b>Demographics From the 1990 Census:</b>		
White	76.5%	80.0%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	15.6%	19.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	3.7%	0.3%
Black	4.2%	0.3%
Other Races	1.2%	0.0%
Hispanic	3.2%	1.7%
Median Age	30.0	34.3
<b>1995 Average Annual Wage and Salary Income</b>		
	\$32,288	\$26,305
Median Household Income	\$41,408	\$26,989
Less than \$ 5,000	3.5%	6.4%
\$5,000 to \$9,000	4.8%	11.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	6.4%	12.8%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	13.3%	15.9%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	13.6%	15.2%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	18.5%	13.6%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	23.1%	12.1%
\$75,000 to \$99,000	10.9%	7.9%
\$100,000 plus	7.7%	4.6%
All persons below poverty level	9.0%	16.2%
<b>Housing</b>		
Occupied	81.2%	48.4%
Vacant Housing Units	18.8%	51.6%
Vacant for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	38.7%	60.7%
<b>Labor Force</b>		
Persons 16 years and over in labor force	74.7%	62.6%
Unemployed	8.8%	22.5%
Self-Employed	6.8%	11.0%

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

# Alaska's Economy Continues Modest Growth

By Neal Fried

Now that 1996's employment figures are nearly all in, the size of Alaska's workforce appears to be just short of one percent ahead of last year's, with a gain of 2,900 jobs (based on an 11-month average). Although this represents a slowing growth rate, it does, nevertheless, show that growth has occurred. This also means 1996 will go down as the ninth straight year of employment gains--albeit moderate. Increases in the retail industry and, in particular, the service industry are largely responsible for keeping total employment in the black. Supplementing these gains have been a decent construction year and the resurgence of Alaska's mining industry. Offsetting these gains, however, were losses in timber, seafood processing and the federal government.

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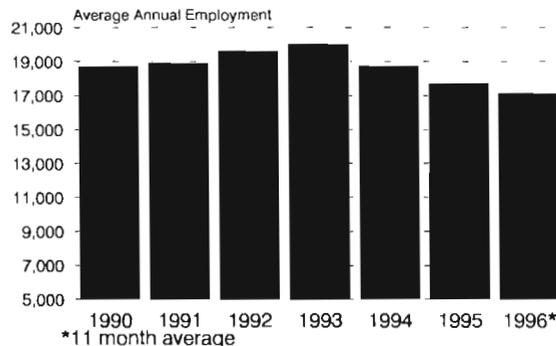
## Most regions continue to gain

In November, employment for all regions but one came in above year-ago levels. (See Table 3.) Only the Northern region's employment numbers fell short of 1995's. This below par performance was due to oil industry losses on the North Slope. In most regions, the gains were running at one percent or less. The one exception was in the Interior, which received an extra boost from the gold mining industry -- particularly the Fort Knox project. Construction of the mine and the Healy project helped peg the Interior's growth rate at 2.1%. In the state's largest labor market, the Anchorage/Mat-Su region, year-to-year gains were running at 0.8%. Nearly all these gains were in retail and services, with the Mat-Su Borough's economy turning in a stronger performance than Anchorage's economy. The Gulf Coast and the Southwest region's employment numbers came in just barely above year-ago levels. Weak oil industry numbers and a less than stellar visitor season on the Central Peninsula contributed to the Kenai Peninsula's weaker performance. Southwest Alaska's fish processing numbers were down a bit because of a weaker crab season. However, growth in the service sector kept the region's employment numbers above water. Even Southeast, which has been experiencing sizable losses from timber, managed to come in a hair ahead of year-ago levels. Small gains in services, construction, and mining were large enough to offset the losses in the timber industry.

Figure • 1

## Federal Government Employment Falls for the Third Year

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



## Labor market ends on a positive note

For the fourth time in 1996, the monthly unemployment rate dipped below 1995's level. November's unemployment rate of 7.5% came in at a tenth of a percent below 1995's November rate. (See Table 4.) In addition, the annual unemployment rate in 1996 will likely end up in the 7.7% range, which would

result in the fourth straight year Alaska's unemployment rate ran below 8.0%. While not a perfect measure of job availability, the jobless rate did shed some light on the employment climate. The fact that total employment continued to climb in November was one factor keeping the unemployment rate relatively low. Alaska's labor market remained fluid in large part due to the strong economies which existed in states from which Alaska traditionally has received most of its in-migration. These states were Washington, Oregon, Texas, Nevada, Idaho, and California. All of them were among the top employment growth performers in the nation during 1996. Strong economies in these states meant that fewer of their residents were choosing Alaska as a destination for job opportunities, with the result being less competition for the jobs that did become available in Alaska.

### **Good news in the oil patch buoys economy**

Although oil industry employment will post small declines in 1996, lots of good news has been reported on the state's biggest economic driver. First and foremost are much higher oil prices. With oil prices running approximately four dollars per barrel ahead of 1995, the state is projected to collect at least half a billion dollars more in fiscal year 1997 than last year. This puts the state of Alaska on much firmer fiscal ground. Higher oil prices are improving the industry's balance sheets also, which in turn allows industry to invest more in the oil fields. As a result of these higher oil prices, cooperation with the state, and improved technology, the state's biggest oil producers, British Petroleum and Atlantic Richfield, recently announced they will increase their planned capital spending in Alaska by \$1.5 billion over the next five years, pushing total capital spending to \$5.2 billion.

In spite of these big increases in capital spending, however, there is no anticipation of growth in oil industry employment. This is because there will be offsetting declines in the size of Prudhoe Bay's workforce, as that field's production continues to decline. What

these new investments should do, however, is help forestall other major employment declines in Alaska's oil patch. This alone puts Alaska's oil industry employment trend and outlook in a much different light than exists for the rest of the nation. Employment in the nation's oil patch peaked more than 15 years ago and is now a fragment of its previous size. In Alaska, oil field employment is higher today than it was a decade ago. Employment in Alaska oil fields has fallen from its peak of 10,541 in 1991, but over the past five years it has remained relatively stable.

The oil companies' announcement of increased investment has caused some observers to predict the eventual arrest of the steady oil production decline we have experienced over the past nine years. Given the large influence which the steady stream of oil revenues has on Alaska's economy, if this prediction proves correct, it would be very good news. This better-than-anticipated revenue outlook immediately improves the outlook of the state's economy, although many of the impacts will not be felt for several years. Additionally, this turnaround in Alaska's oil patch will have immeasurable positive psychological effects which are already translating into a positive influence on Alaska's general business climate.

### **Retail and services continue to carry the day**

Again, retail trade and services are the industries keeping Alaska's total employment numbers in the black. These two industries combined were 2,500 jobs larger in November 1996 than a year ago. (See Table 1.) While certain segments of retail grew to accommodate the Christmas season, as they do each year, the segment of retail which experienced the most year-to-year growth continued to be eating and drinking establishments. Health care continued to carry services to new heights along with help from social services, engineering and management services, and miscellaneous other sectors in this broadly defined industry.

T a b l e • 1

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

	p/	r/	Changes from				p/	r/	Changes from		
	11/96	10/96	11/95	10/96	11/95		11/96	10/96	11/95	10/96	11/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	258,200	265,900	255,800	-7,700	2,400	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	120,900	122,500	120,300	-1,600	600
Goods-producing	34,600	39,600	35,000	-5,000	-400	Goods-producing	10,500	11,800	10,800	-1,300	-300
Service-producing	223,600	226,300	220,800	-2,700	2,800	Service-producing	110,400	110,700	109,500	-300	900
Mining	9,600	9,800	9,800	-200	-200	Mining	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
Construction	12,900	15,300	12,800	-2,400	100	Construction	6,200	7,300	6,400	-1,100	-200
Manufacturing	12,100	14,500	12,400	-2,400	-300	Manufacturing	1,800	2,000	1,900	-200	-100
Durable Goods	3,000	3,300	3,300	-300	-300	Transportation	11,300	11,600	11,700	-300	-400
Lumber & Wood Products	2,000	2,100	2,300	-100	-300	Air Transportation	4,100	4,100	4,300	0	-200
Nondurable Goods	9,100	11,200	9,100	-2,100	0	Communications	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Seafood Processing	6,000	8,000	6,000	-2,000	0	Trade	30,300	30,100	29,800	200	500
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	0	0	Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,400	6,200	0	200
Transportation	21,800	22,700	21,800	-900	0	Retail Trade	23,900	23,700	23,600	200	300
Trucking & Warehousing	3,100	3,200	3,200	-100	-100	Gen. Merch. & Apparel	5,100	4,800	5,100	300	0
Water Transportation	1,700	2,100	1,800	-400	-100	Food Stores	3,100	3,000	3,100	100	0
Air Transportation	7,000	7,100	6,900	-100	100	Eating & Drinking Places	8,300	8,500	8,100	-200	200
Communications	3,800	3,900	3,700	-100	100	Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,900	7,000	7,000	-100	-100
Trade	55,100	55,400	54,000	-300	1,100	Services & Misc.	33,600	33,900	32,800	-300	800
Wholesale Trade	8,600	8,700	8,400	-100	200	Hotels & Lodging Places	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
Retail Trade	46,500	46,700	45,600	-200	900	Health Services	7,100	7,000	6,800	100	300
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,900	9,600	10,000	300	-100	Government	28,300	28,100	28,200	200	100
Food Stores	7,100	7,200	7,100	-100	0	Federal	10,000	10,000	10,200	0	-200
Eating & Drinking Places	14,900	15,400	14,500	-500	400	State	8,500	8,300	8,400	200	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	11,500	11,700	11,600	-200	-100	Local	9,800	9,800	9,600	0	200
Services & Misc.	61,300	62,300	59,700	-1,000	1,600						
Hotels & Lodging Places	5,400	6,000	5,300	-600	100						
Health Services	13,900	13,800	13,400	100	500						
Government	73,900	74,200	73,700	-300	200						
Federal	16,700	16,900	17,100	-200	-400						
State	22,000	22,000	22,000	0	0						
Local	35,200	35,300	34,600	-100	600						

T a b l e • 2

## Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/	r/	11/95	p/	r/	11/95	p/	r/	11/95
	11/96	10/96	11/95	11/96	10/96	11/95	11/96	10/96	11/95
Mining	1162.13	1305.10	1256.74	46.3	52.1	54.1	25.10	25.05	23.23
Construction	1001.63	1150.49	1052.42	40.7	45.6	42.3	24.61	25.23	24.88
Manufacturing	485.26	583.28	460.33	38.0	51.3	34.9	12.77	11.37	13.19
Seafood Processing	308.85	452.80	289.01	36.9	56.6	32.4	8.37	8.00	8.92
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	678.97	709.50	674.42	35.4	36.8	34.8	19.18	19.28	19.38
Trade	396.98	411.92	410.93	32.7	33.3	33.6	12.14	12.37	12.23
Wholesale	623.41	634.45	632.55	37.6	37.9	37.1	16.58	16.74	17.05
Retail	357.60	371.63	371.25	31.9	32.4	33.0	11.21	11.47	11.25
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	493.85	493.10	485.16	35.3	35.5	35.7	13.99	13.89	13.59

Notes to Tables 1-3:

Tables 1 and 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 non-supervisory workers (nonmanufacturing). Averages are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Benchmark: March 1995

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Southeast Region	p/		Changes from		
	11/96	10/96	11/95	10/96	11/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	34,400	36,150	34,350	-1,750	50
Goods-producing	5,200	5,900	5,300	-700	-100
Service-producing	29,200	30,250	29,050	-1,050	150
Mining	300	300	250	0	50
Construction	1,650	1,850	1,500	-200	150
Manufacturing	3,250	3,750	3,550	-500	-300
Durable Goods	1,500	1,650	1,750	-150	-250
Lumber & Wood Products	1,350	1,500	1,600	-150	-250
Nondurable Goods	1,750	2,100	1,800	-350	-50
Seafood Processing	1,000	1,350	1,050	-350	-50
Pulp Mills	500	500	550	0	-50
Transportation	2,650	2,850	2,650	-200	0
Trade	6,350	6,650	6,450	-300	-100
Wholesale Trade	500	550	550	-50	-50
Retail Trade	5,850	6,100	5,900	-250	-50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,350	1,400	1,350	-50	0
Services & Misc.	6,400	6,650	6,250	-250	150
Government	12,450	12,700	12,350	-250	100
Federal	1,850	1,950	1,850	-100	0
State	5,250	5,300	5,350	-50	-100
Local	5,350	5,450	5,150	-100	200

### Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	132,000	133,800	131,000	-1,800	1,000
Goods-producing	11,500	12,800	11,800	-1,300	-300
Service-producing	120,500	121,000	119,200	-500	1,300
Mining	2,500	2,500	2,550	0	-50
Construction	7,050	8,150	7,200	-1,100	-150
Manufacturing	1,950	2,150	2,050	-200	-100
Transportation	12,400	12,700	12,650	-300	-250
Trade	33,150	33,000	32,550	150	600
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,400	7,450	7,500	-50	-100
Services & Misc.	36,300	36,700	35,400	-400	900
Government	31,250	31,150	31,100	100	150
Federal	10,100	10,100	10,300	0	-200
State	9,400	9,250	9,200	150	200
Local	11,750	11,800	11,600	-50	150

### Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	24,900	26,250	24,800	-1,350	100
Goods-producing	5,500	6,300	5,500	-800	0
Service-producing	19,400	19,950	19,300	-550	100
Mining	900	950	1,100	-50	-200
Construction	1,250	1,450	1,300	-200	-50
Manufacturing	3,350	3,900	3,100	-550	250
Seafood Processing	2,050	2,600	1,850	-550	200
Transportation	2,150	2,250	2,150	-100	0
Trade	4,750	4,850	4,700	-100	50
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	0	0
Retail Trade	4,200	4,300	4,150	-100	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	700	700	700	0	0
Services & Misc.	4,900	5,200	4,900	-300	0
Government	6,900	6,950	6,850	-50	50
Federal	650	650	600	0	50
State	1,700	1,750	1,750	-50	-50
Local	4,550	4,550	4,500	0	50

Interior Region	p/		Changes from:		
	11/96	10/96	11/95	10/96	11/95
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,750	37,100	35,000	-1,350	750
Goods-producing	3,600	4,600	3,400	-1,000	200
Service-producing	32,150	32,500	31,600	-350	550
Mining	1,050	1,100	850	-50	200
Construction	2,000	2,900	1,950	-900	50
Manufacturing	550	600	600	-50	-50
Transportation	2,500	2,800	2,450	-300	50
Trade	7,650	7,700	7,450	-50	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,050	0	0
Services & Misc.	8,050	8,150	7,850	-100	200
Government	12,900	12,800	12,800	100	100
Federal	3,450	3,450	3,500	0	-50
State	4,850	4,800	4,850	50	0
Local	4,600	4,550	4,450	50	150

### Fairbanks North Star Borough

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,450	32,300	30,800	-850	650
Goods-producing	3,300	4,050	3,050	-750	250
Service-producing	28,150	28,250	27,750	-100	400
Mining	850	900	650	-50	200
Construction	1,900	2,600	1,850	-700	50
Manufacturing	550	550	550	0	0
Transportation	2,100	2,200	2,050	-100	50
Trucking & Warehousing	550	550	550	0	0
Air Transportation	550	550	550	0	0
Communications	250	250	250	0	0
Trade	7,050	7,100	6,950	-50	100
Wholesale Trade	800	800	800	0	0
Retail Trade	6,250	6,300	6,150	-50	100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,350	1,350	1,300	0	50
Food Stores	800	800	800	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,150	2,200	2,150	-50	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	950	1,000	0	-50
Services & Misc.	7,450	7,550	7,250	-100	200
Government	10,600	10,450	10,500	150	100
Federal	2,900	2,900	2,950	0	-50
State	4,650	4,550	4,650	100	0
Local	3,050	3,000	2,900	50	150

### Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,100	16,500	14,950	-1,400	150
Goods-producing	3,300	4,400	3,350	-1,100	-50
Service-producing	11,800	12,100	11,600	-300	200
Seafood Processing	2,950	4,000	3,050	-1,050	-100
Government	5,550	5,550	5,550	0	0
Federal	500	500	550	0	-50
State	500	500	500	0	0
Local	4,550	4,550	4,500	0	50

### Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,400	15,550	15,550	-150	-150
Goods-producing	5,450	5,600	5,700	-150	-250
Service-producing	9,950	9,950	9,850	0	100
Mining	4,850	4,900	5,100	-50	-250
Government	4,900	4,900	4,850	0	50
Federal	200	200	200	0	0
State	300	300	300	0	0
Local	4,400	4,400	4,350	0	50

T a b l e • 4

**Federal employment continues to slide****Unemployment Rates  
by Region & Census Area**

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	p/ 11/96	r/ 10/96	11/95
United States	5.0	4.9	5.3
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	7.5	6.8	7.6
<b>Anch.-MatSu Region</b>	6.1	5.6	6.0
Municipality of Anchorage	5.3	4.9	5.3
MatSu Borough	9.9	8.8	10.1
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	13.1	11.2	13.8
Kenai Peninsula Borough	14.8	13.1	13.6
Kodiak Island Borough	9.3	7.0	15.6
Valdez-Cordova	11.3	9.5	11.6
<b>Interior Region</b>	8.3	7.3	8.5
Denali Borough	12.9	10.7	14.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	7.5	6.7	7.6
Southeast Fairbanks	12.3	10.6	14.6
Yukon-Koyukuk	17.0	15.3	16.0
<b>Northern Region</b>	8.0	8.7	9.6
Nome	7.6	8.6	11.7
North Slope Borough	4.5	4.5	4.1
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.5	14.9	14.2
<b>Southeast Region</b>	7.9	6.8	7.5
Haines Borough	12.6	11.6	13.1
Juneau Borough	6.5	6.0	6.5
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8.9	7.4	7.8
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	12.9	10.7	9.5
Sitka Borough	6.0	5.8	5.9
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	5.9	4.6	6.2
Wrangell-Petersburg	9.2	6.9	10.6
Yakutat Borough	5.4	1.5	3.8
<b>Southwest Region</b>	6.1	6.1	7.3
Aleutians East Borough	4.4	2.5	5.1
Aleutians West	2.1	2.4	1.7
Bethel	7.1	8.2	8.8
Bristol Bay Borough	8.2	4.9	8.9
Dillingham	6.3	6.8	8.2
Lake & Peninsula Borough	7.3	5.8	5.2
Wade Hampton	10.5	9.1	13.4
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>			
United States	5.4	5.2	5.6
Alaska Statewide	7.5	7.2	7.3

p/ denotes preliminary estimates  
r/ denotes revised estimates

Benchmark: March 1995

- 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 and Analysis Section.

Job losses in the timber and oil industries have gotten most of the attention over the past three years; however, the industry that lost more ground than any other in the state is Alaska's federal sector. Federal government employment experienced its third straight year of declines. (See Figure 1.) Since 1993, federal civilian employment has slipped by nearly 3,000 jobs or 14 percent. During the first 11 months of 1996, federal civilian employment stood at 17,127, the smallest federal civilian work force since 1973. Base closures and troop drawdowns helped explain some of these losses. For example, Alaska's 1996 uniformed military force level of 18,974 represented the smallest troop levels in more than 30 years. The reinvention of government has taken its toll on nearly all other federal agencies. Only the Post Office, which controls its own budget, got by largely unscathed.

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# Alaska Employment Service

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Anchorage: Phone 269-4800

Bethel: Phone 543-2210

Dillingham: Phone 842-5579

Eagle River: Phone 694-6904/07

Mat-Su: Phone 376-2407/08

Fairbanks: Phone 451-2871

Glennallen: Phone 822-3350

Kotzebue: Phone 442-3280

Nome: Phone 443-2626/2460

Tok: Phone 883-5629

Valdez: Phone 835-4910

Kenai: Phone 283-4304/4377/4319

Homer: Phone 235-7791

Kodiak: Phone 486-3105

Seward: Phone 224-5276

Juneau: Phone 465-4562

Petersburg: Phone 772-3791

Sitka: Phone 747-3347/3423/6921

Ketchikan: Phone 225-3181/82/83



## Alaska Economic Regions

The Alaska Department of Labor shall foster and promote the welfare of the wage earners of the state and improve their working conditions and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.