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1998: The Year in Review

By Rachel Baker, John Boucher,
Neal Fried, and Brigitta Windisch-Cole

Job base grows at accelerating pace

A

laska's job base grew 2.5% in 1998, with growth accelerating for the second consecutive year. Statewide, 6,700 jobs were added, the largest numerical increase since 1990. (See Exhibit 1.)

An expanding services sector, oil field exploration activity, and air cargo and passenger transportation growth propelled the state's job growth. A dynamic communications industry, retail and financial growth, and another solid visitor season were also important contributors. Overall, wage and salary employment grew 2.5%, the fastest rate of job growth since 1994. (See Exhibit 2.) The gain pushed Alaska's annual average wage and salary employment over the 275,000 mark, and the statewide unemployment rate set a record low at 5.8%. Regionally, Anchorage and Mat-Su Borough were the fastest growing areas in 1998, while Southeast Alaska was the only area to experience job losses. (See Exhibit 3.)

While most sectors of the economy grew, Alaska's manufacturing sector experienced another year of setbacks. Poor export markets in Asia hit the timber industry, particularly logging, hard. Some effects from the Ketchikan pulp mill closure also lingered. A second consecutive disastrous Bristol Bay salmon return meant more job loss in Alaska's seafood processing sector. While retail trade as a whole grew, retrenchment in some segments accompanied the gain. Consolidation in Alaska's federal government rounded out job losses in 1998.

Services sector leads growth

The services industry contributed nearly half of the new jobs in 1998, making it the biggest contributor to growth. Services growth was widespread with only one facet, legal services, showing a drop.

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Alaska 1997-1998

	1997	1998	Change	Percent Change
Total Wage & Salary	268,700	275,400	6,700	2.5%
Goods-producing	38,000	38,400	400	1.1
Service-producing	230,800	237,000	6,200	2.7
Mining	10,000	10,500	500	5.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,300	8,900	600	7.2
Construction	12,800	13,400	600	4.7
Manufacturing	15,200	14,600	-600	-3.9
Durable Goods	3,000	2,700	-300	-10.0
Lumber & Wood Products	1,900	1,600	-300	-15.8
Nondurable Goods	12,200	11,900	-300	-2.5
Seafood Processing	9,400	9,200	-200	-2.1
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	24,200	25,500	1,300	5.4
Trucking & Warehousing	2,800	2,900	100	3.6
Water Transportation	2,000	1,900	-100	-5.0
Air Transportation	8,400	9,200	800	9.5
Communications	4,000	4,400	400	10.0
Electric/Gas/Sanitary	2,300	2,500	200	8.7
Trade	55,900	56,900	1,000	1.8
Wholesale Trade	8,800	9,000	200	2.3
Retail Trade	47,100	47,900	800	1.7
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,300	9,100	-200	-2.2
Food Stores	7,100	7,200	100	1.4
Eating/Drinking Places	15,900	16,200	300	1.9
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	12,200	12,500	300	2.5
Services & Misc.	65,300	68,500	3,200	4.9
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,500	6,700	200	3.1
Business Services	8,600	8,900	300	3.5
Health Services	14,700	15,000	300	2.0
Legal Services	1,700	1,600	-100	-5.9
Social Services	6,900	7,400	500	7.2
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	7,200	7,900	700	9.7
Government	73,200	73,500	300	0.4
Federal	17,300	17,200	-100	-0.6
State	21,300	21,400	100	0.5
Local	34,600	35,000	400	1.2

Benchmark: March 1998. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

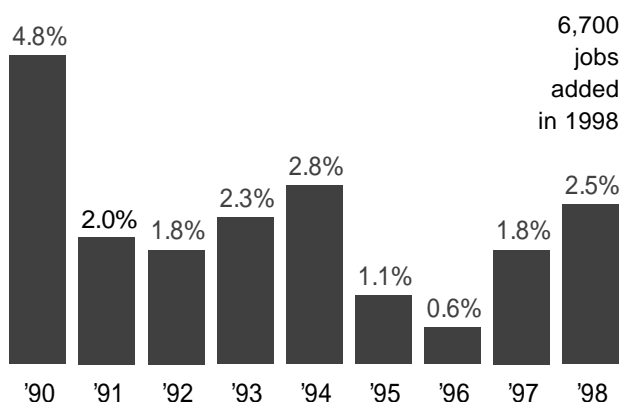
The strongest gains were in engineering and facilities management services. This sector was bolstered by renewed activity in Alaska's oil patch. The social services segment grew due to rapid growth in job training programs and residential care facilities providing job opportunities for the mentally handicapped. Business service firms also grew in 1998. Firms

that performed notably included those offering security and related services, and computer programming and other computer-related services. Alaska's health care industry, the leading source of job growth during the 1990s, continued to grow, although at a slower rate than that seen during much of the decade.

Tourism-related services also played an important role in job growth last year. Amusement and recreation services, a sector heavily influenced by Alaska's visitor industry, posted solid employment growth. Hotel and lodging employment, bolstered by the opening of several new hotels, also increased.

2 Statewide Job Growth Rate

% employment change from previous year
Fastest since 1994



Transportation, communications forge ahead

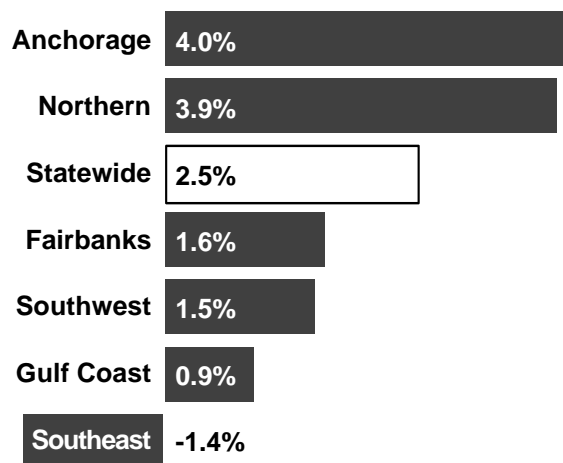
Services added more jobs, but the transportation, communications and public utilities sector had the fastest growth rate, adding jobs at a 5.4% clip. Anchorage International Airport continued to gain prominence as a hub for international cargo. That activity, combined with tourist traffic, translated into 800 new jobs in air transportation. Alaska's rapidly evolving telecommunications industry was a big contributor to job gains in the communications and utilities sectors. Investment in new communications technologies and the privatization of Fairbanks' Municipal Utilities System were the major contributors to job growth in 1998.

Despite losses, retailers post job gain

Fed by increases in eating and drinking establishments and building supply and furniture stores, retail employment was the third largest contributor to private sector job gains in 1998. Eating and drinking establishments posted a fifth consecutive year of growth, while building supply and furniture stores benefited from a solid year in construction and the opening of a new Home Depot store in Anchorage. General merchandise stores went through a year of retrenchment, as JC Penney closed stores in several locations in Alaska. Food stores grew slightly, but the purchase of Alaska's largest grocer, Carrs, by the second largest, Safeway, portends consolidation in this sector. Miscellaneous retail took a hit when Rite Aid drug stores pulled out of the Alaska market; however, tourism-related retail growth helped offset some of those job losses.

3 Anchorage Leads in Growth

Percent change in employment 1997-1998



Oil field services firms surge, recede

Alaska's oil and gas industry, particularly the oil field services sector, revived in 1998, although by year end it was apparent

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

that the growth was transient. Exploration and development at a number of prospects on the North Slope as well as oil module construction on the Kenai Peninsula meant the best year for oil and gas employment since the early 1990s. At year's end though, low oil prices took their toll, and producers and contractors began to shed jobs.

After several years of strong growth, employment in minerals mining fell back in 1998. Alaska's large-scale mines all survived and some even thrived in the current low price environment. The Greens Creek and Fort Knox mines had solid years. An expansion project at Red Dog increased the mine's production capacity and resulted in incremental job gains. Alaska's smaller and medium size mines, particularly placer operations, struggled as some downsized and others ceased operations.

Native corporations boost finance sector

Alaska's financial sector grew again in 1998, and Alaska's Native corporations led the recovery. Expansion of Native-operated businesses and a good construction year for the regional housing authorities were instrumental in the turnaround. Alaska's banking sector, spurred on by refinancing activity, also saw some growth.

Manufacturing heads list of job losers

For the third year in a row, manufacturing topped the list of declining industries. Seafood processors posted 200 fewer jobs than in 1997. A small Bristol Bay salmon harvest and low salmon prices created losses for processors and fishers. In the wood products industry, the Asian market for wood products crashed, which in turn influenced the level of logging on private lands in Southeast Alaska and the Gulf Coast region. Another significant factor in the logging industry's decline was lower harvest levels from the Tongass National Forest.

Federal drops, state and local governments grow

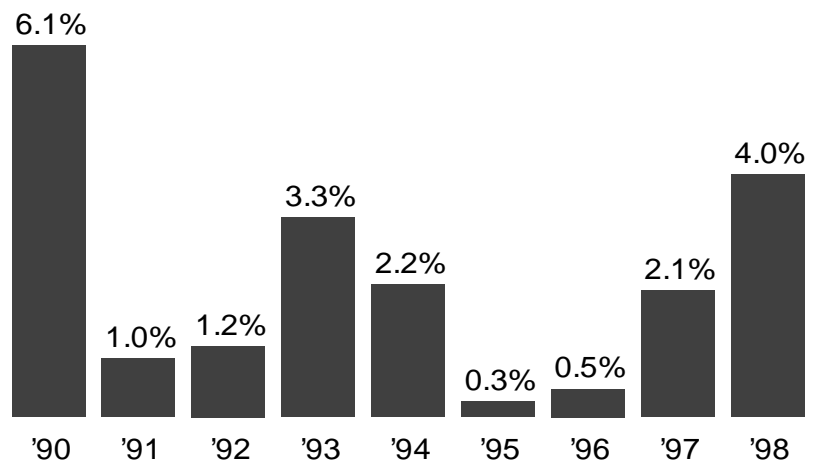
Alaska's public sector employers saw a slight gain on balance, but federal government employment

dropped while state and local governments edged up slightly. Continued downsizing of civilian military employment as well as at some federal agencies pushed federal government employment even lower in 1998. State government employment saw a slight increase due to gains at state agencies primarily in Anchorage and Fairbanks. At the local level, increased school enrollment and new school facilities nudged employment up. The gain in local employment was noted despite the effects of the privatization of the Fairbanks Municipal Utilities System.

ANCHORAGE grows at a 4.0% clip

One big reason for the state's strong showing in 1998 was Anchorage's above-average performance. Wage and salary employment grew by 5,000, representing the largest absolute gain in jobs in Anchorage in eight years. Employment grew by 4.0%, the strongest percentage gain since 1990. (See Exhibits 4 and 5.) The oil industry, construction, services, air transportation, and local government all contributed. Another factor was the absence of any major negative in Anchorage; no major industry lost ground. Coupled with this relatively strong growth in employment, Anchorage's unemployment hit a new record low.

Anchorage Growth Accelerates **4** Percent employment change from previous year



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

The oil patch made a big comeback in 1998

In spite of low oil prices during most of the year, Anchorage's oil industry employment grew for the first time since 1992. Atlantic Richfield's development of the Alpine and Tarn fields and drilling at West Sak boosted the industry's numbers. British Petroleum's development of the Badami oil field also helped fire up activity in the oil patch. Contractors and oil field services companies headquartered in Anchorage reaped some of the benefits of this increased activity.

Construction enjoys another good year

1998 was the biggest year for Anchorage construction since 1985. The value of permitted construction in Anchorage climbed by over \$100 million, 30% higher than last year's level. This growth pushed construction employment up 400 jobs. No one project or segment of the industry dominated the picture. Residential construction enjoyed its best year since 1986, with 1,750 building permits issued, 377 more than in 1997. The two largest projects that got underway in 1998, but are not yet finished, were the \$125 million Alaska Seafood Center and Columbia-Sussex's 350-room, full service hotel. Other hotel construction, the new Native Heritage Cultural Center, Federal Express's new \$38 million freight handling facility and a \$40 million Commissary/Exchange kept the commercial side busy. It was also a strong season for highway construction, with the two largest projects being the \$38 million Whittier access tunnel and preliminary work on the \$20 million Minnesota/International Airport Road exchange.

5 Wage & Salary Employment Change — Anchorage 1997-1998

	1997	1998	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	123,900	128,900	5,000	4.0%
Goods-producing	10,900	11,600	700	6.4
Mining	2,400	2,700	300	12.5
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,200	2,500	300	13.6
Construction	6,600	7,000	400	6.1
Manufacturing	2,000	2,000	0	0.0
Service-producing	113,000	117,300	4,300	3.8
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	12,300	13,200	900	7.3
Air Transportation	5,100	5,800	700	13.7
Communications	2,400	2,600	200	8.3
Trade	30,700	31,300	600	2.0
Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,500	200	3.2
Retail Trade	24,400	24,800	400	1.6
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	4,700	4,600	-100	-2.1
Food Stores	3,000	3,000	0	0.0
Eating & Drinking Places	8,700	8,900	200	2.3
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,200	7,500	300	4.2
Services & Misc.	34,900	36,600	1,700	4.9
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,600	0	0.0
Business Services	6,100	6,400	300	4.9
Health Services	7,600	7,900	300	3.9
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	0	0.0
Social Services	3,100	3,500	400	12.9
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	5,200	5,500	300	5.8
Government	27,900	28,600	700	2.5
Federal	10,000	10,100	100	1.0
State	8,100	8,300	200	2.5
Local	9,900	10,300	400	4.0

Benchmark: March 1998. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Even the City's finance sector grew

After a number of years of stagnation, employment in Anchorage's finance sector grew by 300. Low interest rates, a strong real estate market, healthy bank earnings, and increases in mortgage activity resulted in employment growth of 4.2%. Bank of America announced it would be leaving the state. Northrim Bank is buying much of its business.

Services add 1,700 jobs to the economy

Services again led employment growth in Anchorage, adding 1,700 new wage and salary jobs to its workforce. Like construction, no one sector dominated the industry. Health care, business services, social services, and engineering and management services contributed most of this growth. The latter got an additional boost from the strong growth in construction and the oil industry rebound. Health care continued its relentless march ahead. Some of health care

service growth reflected the beginning privatization of the federally operated Alaska Native Medical Center. In 1998, the operation of the Alaska Native Hospital was turned over to a consortium of Native Alaskan organizations. Prior to 1998, nearly all of its workforce was accounted for in the federal workforce, but over time most of it will move to private sector health care. Some employment growth in social services was a reflection of this privatization trend. Business services strength came from growth in computer and personnel supply services.

A moderate growth year for retail

For retail trade 1998 was a year of moderate growth. The single largest addition came with the opening of Home Depot with 140-160 jobs. Other openings in retail included The GAP and the Sullivan Steak House. There were also significant retail closures in 1998. Rite Aid shut its doors along with Kinney Shoes and other smaller retailers.

Air transportation and communications remain strong sectors

One of the pleasant surprises in air transportation was the continued strength in international air cargo, despite economic woes in Asia. Some flights were canceled but employment in this sector remained strong. Federal Express opened its new facility and employment for the state's largest air cargo player continued to grow. This was the first full year of United Airlines' new trans-Pacific airfreight service. A strong year for the visitor season also ensured growth for many domestic carriers. Many carriers added flights and employees to their operations. By the end of the year, a few commuter carriers pulled back. Southcentral Air ended its passenger service and Yute Air curtailed its flights.

The technological revolution continues to have a positive impact on employment in communications; it grew by 8.3% in 1998. More communication services are being used and

employment in this dynamic industry continues to grow. The big communication story this year was the sale of city-owned Anchorage Telephone Utilities to Alaska Communications Systems. If the regulatory authorities approve this sale in early 1999, the change in ownership will just add to the fast changes taking place in this industry.

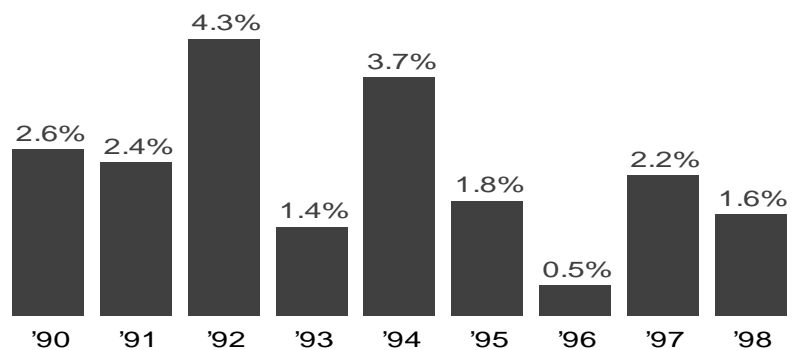
Federal employment stabilizes and schools contribute most of government's growth

After five straight years of declines, federal employment in Anchorage crept up 1.0% in 1998. This represents the first time this sector of government has grown since 1993. State government employment grew by 200. These increases came both at the university level and other parts of state government. Most of local government's gains came from the Anchorage School District where enrollments continued to rise.

FAIRBANKS moves forward in 1998

Fairbanks' economy continued on a growth path during 1998. The increase in total wage and salary employment amounted to 500 jobs and an average annual growth rate of 1.6%. (See Exhibit 7.) Transportation, communications, and utilities

Fairbanks Posts Year of Growth **6**



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

gained the most ground and three new firms in this sector now rank among the largest private sector employers in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. So far in the 1990s, employment has grown every year in spite of constant churning in Fairbanks' economy. (See Exhibit 6.)

During 1998, Fairbanks regained its role as one of the major staging areas for North Slope oilfield development. Local workers and businesses benefited from the upbeat activities in Alaska's largest oil patch. A good visitor season added fizz during the summer months and tightened the local labor market. Services employment grew to support businesses and a growing population. On the negative side, multiple retail store closures led to job losses and narrowed choices for Fairbanks shoppers. All in all, Fairbanks had a good year: unemployment, for example, registered at record

low rates for most parts of the year. Construction also had a busy 1998 season, and housing markets were brisk.

Transportation, communications and utilities lead employment growth

The biggest boost to employment came from the relocation of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company (Alyeska) workers. Their jobs, although directly linked to the oil industry, count as transportation employment. Although Alyeska moved workers to Fairbanks in 1997, the major effect of this event appeared in the employment and earnings statistics during 1998. Fairbanks gained over 200 new jobs and experienced a greater than five percent increase in local wage and salary income since the move took effect.

Another contributor to Fairbanks' overall payroll income gain was change in telephone communications. PTI Communications (PTI) acquired the telephone service utility from the Municipality of Fairbanks in the fall of 1997, making communications workers private sector employees, and causing growth in private sector communications. In 1998, PTI dissolved its Anchorage headquarters, and added about 50 workers to its Fairbanks staff. Privatization also meant ownership changes. In less than a year, the local telephone company in Fairbanks changed ownership three times.

Construction remains strong

Construction spurred on employment growth during 1998. Fairbanks contractors employed 100 more workers than in 1997. Although a few large projects, such as the Alyeska Pipeline Office Building and the PTI Communications office complex, were finished early in the season, public, military, commercial and residential projects continued to keep Fairbanks crews busy. Housing and barracks remodeling were the main projects on both military bases. After two years of construction, the Chena Hot Springs Road project was completed, and the International Arctic Research Center opened. New construction started on the Danby Middle School and ground

7 Wage & Salary Employment Change — Fairbanks 1997-1998

	1997	1998	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,050	32,550	500	1.6%
Goods-producing	3,350	3,200	-150	-4.5
Service-producing	28,750	29,350	600	2.1
Mining	1,150	900	-250	-21.7
Construction	1,650	1,750	100	6.1
Manufacturing	550	600	50	9.1
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,500	2,950	450	18.0
Trucking & Warehousing	550	600	50	9.1
Air Transportation	700	700	0	0.0
Communications	300	450	150	50.0
Trade	6,800	6,950	150	2.2
Wholesale Trade	850	850	0	0.0
Retail Trade	5,950	6,100	150	2.5
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,300	1,250	-50	-3.8
Food Stores	800	750	-50	-6.3
Eating & Drinking Places	1,950	2,050	100	5.1
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,050	1,100	50	4.8
Services & Misc.	7,900	8,050	150	1.9
Hotels & Lodging Places	800	850	50	6.3
Health Services	1,900	1,850	-50	-2.6
Government	10,550	10,300	-250	-2.4
Federal	3,350	3,300	-50	-1.5
State	4,200	4,200	0	0.0
Local	2,950	2,800	-150	-5.1

Benchmark: March 1998. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

was broken on the site of the new courthouse. Residential housing construction fared well also, maintaining its fast pace from last year.

Oil and gas and mining employment slip

Surprisingly, 1998 oil-related employment in Fairbanks showed a decline from the 1997 level, despite the development of new oil fields. Employment dropped largely because an oil field service company that was considered a Fairbanks firm was sold to an Anchorage company, shifting the firm's employment to Anchorage in 1998. However, there is no doubt that Fairbanks' oil industry workers and businesses greatly benefited during 1998 from the upbeat activities in Alaska's oil patch.

Job losses occurred in the area's gold mining industry. On average, in 1998, there were nearly 60 fewer mining jobs than in 1997. Placer mining companies scaled back mining efforts during the 1998 season because of low gold prices. And last year, gold prices per ounce seldom topped the \$300 mark, cutting deep into profit margins of small producers. Fairbanks' crown jewel, the Fort Knox Mine, continued to operate at full staff levels and met its production goal of over 365,000 ounces of gold. Ownership of this mine changed when Kinross Gold Corporation and Amax Gold merged. Exploration continued in the Fairbanks mining districts despite the dearth of exploration funds, and the result holds promise. Gold reserves have been upgraded for the entire area.

Retail store closures did not alter the trend

The turmoil in Fairbanks' retail market left a mark on employment, but not enough to show a drop during 1998. On the surface, it appears that the losses stemming from multiple store closures have been absorbed by other businesses. On average, retail stores and restaurants employed 150 more workers in 1998 than during the previous year. But retail employment lost ground in the second half of the year when the larger store closures took effect. Among them were

employers such as Gavora, JC Penney, Woolworth and Rite Aid, more commonly known as Payless. In addition, the Safeway purchase of Carrs resulted in scrapped plans for a new Fairbanks store. By fall, consumers noted the void the closures had left in the Fairbanks retail market. More than 20 retail businesses, including restaurants, closed their doors in 1998. However, quite a few smaller retail stores and restaurants opened for business. Because retail is very competitive and quick to respond to market changes, it is likely that the downturn in retail employment will be short-term.

Hotels lead services to gains

In Fairbanks' services sector, 150 jobs were added in 1998. Hotel growth was boosted by a good visitor season—50 new jobs were added during 1998. Hotel receipts rose 7.3% from last year's total. Industry experts believe that tour and independent travel were up. Cruise line operators confirmed that bookings on their ships increased over 1997. Border crossing statistics collected on the Alaska-Canadian Highway showed that traffic had increased. Between May and September, officials counted over 12,000 more passengers entering Alaska during 1998 than in 1997.

Finance, insurance, and real estate employment yields 4.8% growth

For the past three years, finance, insurance and real estate businesses have added jobs in Fairbanks. During 1998, annual employment averaged 1,100 jobs, up 50 from the year before. Strong real estate markets and refinancing activities helped push up demand for financial, property recording and insurance services. Moreover, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union opened a branch in North Pole during the year.

Utility sale the main cause of public sector job drop

In spite of an increase in school district employment, local government employment contracted during 1998. The impact of the

privatization of the Municipal Utility System continued to count during most months of 1998. Federal government employment decreased by 50 jobs. State government employment remained unchanged. In all, 250 jobs were spun off the public sector.

GULF COAST experiences moderate growth

Total wage and salary employment of the Gulf economy (the Valdez-Cordova census area, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the Kodiak Island Borough) rose a moderate 0.9%. Combined job counts for these areas only rose by 250. While service-producing industries created 450 new jobs, goods-producing industries shed 200 jobs. In spite of those job losses, employment was very solid in the oil industry and construction netted a gain. (See Exhibit 8.)

Mobility a factor in oil industry figures

Although employment statistics indicated that there was no change in oil industry employment on the Kenai Peninsula, there is evidence that at least 150 workers were hired during 1998. Since workers for large employers frequently change work sites, their mobility is often not accurately reflected in statistical records. However, 1998 will be remembered as a good year for oil industry employment on the Kenai Peninsula. In 1998, Alaska Petroleum Contractors (APC) started to build the largest oil field modules ever assembled in Alaska at its new assembly site in Nikiski. Work started on the assembly of seven large sealift modules that are destined for ARCO Alaska's Alpine field on the North Slope.

Construction perks

In many areas of the Gulf region, residential construction fared well. Construction was especially brisk on the southern Kenai Peninsula. Valdez's largest residential project was an eight-duplex housing project for low-income tenants. Kenai's largest building project was the \$15 million Alaska Regional Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Center. In Kodiak, two large projects were completed—the Kodiak Launch Complex and the Kodiak Fisheries Research Center. Construction began in summer 1998 for Kodiak's Wal-Mart. Seward got a new Alaska Railroad depot, and work began on the Edgewater Hotel, a 70-room complex. Projects in other areas of the Gulf region kept construction crews busy as well.

Timber industries suffer most losses

Weak Asian markets caused a downturn in the Gulf's manufacturing industry employment in 1998. Logging on Kodiak was hit especially hard. The export business nearly dried up during the first half of 1998 and recuperated only slightly during the second half of the year. Markets became tough for urea (a fertilizer) as well, and Unocal had to lay off workers. Fishing was a mixed bag, as usual. While salmon fishers in Prince William

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Gulf Coast 1997-1998

	1997	1998	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	27,200	27,450	250	0.9%
Goods-producing	6,850	6,650	-200	-2.9
Service-producing	20,350	20,800	450	2.2
Mining	1,200	1,200	0	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,200	1,200	0	0.0
Construction	1,150	1,200	50	4.3
Manufacturing	4,500	4,200	-300	-6.7
Seafood Processing	3,350	3,250	-100	-3.0
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,400	2,450	50	2.1
Trade	5,100	5,300	200	3.9
Wholesale Trade	650	600	-50	-7.7
Retail Trade	4,500	4,700	200	4.4
Eating & Drinking Places	1,500	1,600	100	6.7
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	700	750	50	7.1
Services & Misc.	5,400	5,550	150	2.8
Health Services	1,100	1,050	-50	-4.5
Government	6,750	6,750	0	0.0
Federal	750	700	-50	-6.7
State	1,650	1,600	-50	-3.0
Local	4,350	4,400	50	1.1

Benchmark: March 1998. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Sound and Kodiak had a good season, Cook Inlet fishers had a poor year. The Cook Inlet salmon catch was down 48% from the 1997 harvest. Some jobs may have been shed because of the poor season in Cook Inlet, but most jobs were lost when the Icicle Seafood plant in Homer was destroyed in a fire.

Population and visitors spurred job growth in services and retail

Employment growth was strongest in trade and services. Stores, restaurants, hotels, and other service-related businesses created 350 new jobs. Not all of this employment growth can be attributed to the visitor industry, but tourism has become more important to all of the Gulf region's business sectors. Population also grew in the Gulf region 2.0% over 1997 estimates.

On the Kenai Peninsula, Seward had the best year for visitors. It has become the busiest port for cruise ships in the Gulf Region. About 110 cruise ships docked in Seward last year. During the second and third quarters of 1998, Seward's businesses were buzzing with taxable sales up 13% over 1997. Neither Homer, Soldotna, nor Kenai could match such success. In Kodiak, the arrival of 10 cruise ships was a celebrated event, and cruise ship vessels called on Cordova for the first time. Valdez also registered a good visitor season.

A few things changed in transportation employment

Although there were a few employment losses, transportation as a whole showed gains. South Central Airlines, a long established local airline on the Kenai Peninsula, canceled all of its passenger flights. About 60 workers were affected by the shut down in September. Increases in transportation employment stemmed from ground, pipeline and water transportation. In Valdez, job counts rose because Alyeska Pipeline Service Company moved about 40 jobs to its terminal late in 1997.

Public sector employment remained the same

Public sector employment stayed at 1997 levels, and only minimal changes took place. Increases in local school districts and other local government made up for small subtractions in federal and state employment. Most of the losses of state jobs were concentrated in Valdez and occurred when the Harborview Developmental Center closed.

SOUTHWESTERN REGION services grow despite salmon problems

In spite of one of the poorest salmon seasons ever in Bristol Bay, employment rose by 1.5% in the Southwestern region. (See Exhibit 9.) In 1998, 250 jobs were added over the previous year. Most jobs came from service-producing industries, including school districts. Population grew in the region, more so in areas where fishing plays a smaller role in the local economy. Health care and community and education services were among the growing employment sectors. Retail also expanded and Bethel now has a remodeled Alaska Commercial Company store. Jobs have also been created from government service contracts to maintain former military installations, which included environmental remediation work.

Wage & Salary Employment Change — Southwest 1997-1998



	1997	1998	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,050	17,300	250	1.5%
Goods-producing	4,700	4,650	-50	-1.1
Service-producing	12,350	12,650	300	2.4
Seafood Processing	4,500	4,450	-50	-1.1
Government	5,550	5,650	100	1.8
Federal	400	350	-50	-12.5
State	500	500	0	0.0
Local	4,600	4,800	200	4.3

Benchmark: March 1998. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Bristol Bay fishers agonize over another poor harvest

For the second consecutive year, the salmon harvest of Bristol Bay was a bust. Salmon catches were nearly 23% down from 1997's dismal landings. Seafood processing employment did not drop immediately. However, in July, many of the workers were idled and by August there were 1,000 fewer seafood processing jobs than in August 1997. Other harvests made up for the poor salmon

season. The snow crab winter fishery started in January and a November Red King harvest produced good results. Employment surged during those shellfish seasons. The groundfishery also helped to mitigate employment losses stemming from the disastrous salmon season.

NORTHERN ALASKA spurred on by oil and construction

Big gains in oil industry and construction employment made up the bulk of job growth. The Northern region posted 600 new jobs and registered a 3.9% growth rate for 1998. (See Exhibit 10.) The North Slope oil fields were not the only big construction projects this past year. The Red Dog Mine, in the Northwest Arctic Borough, finished its \$200 million expansion project. Local government employment became smaller in both the North Slope Borough School District and the borough government. Retail employment grew slightly in Barrow when Alaska Commercial opened its new store. However, the oil field development activities on the North Slope had the biggest impact on employment there and elsewhere in Alaska.

During 1998, construction of the Badami field was completed, the large Alpine project was started, several smaller fields came on line, and drillers progressed on a huge drilling program that included West Sak. In all, it was a very good year for oil industry employment and for oil industry-sponsored construction work. While activities were up, low oil prices prevailed and did not rebound to strengthen the investment effort. By December, the oil producers announced that curtailment of their infrastructure expansion had become unavoidable.

SOUTHEAST employment slides

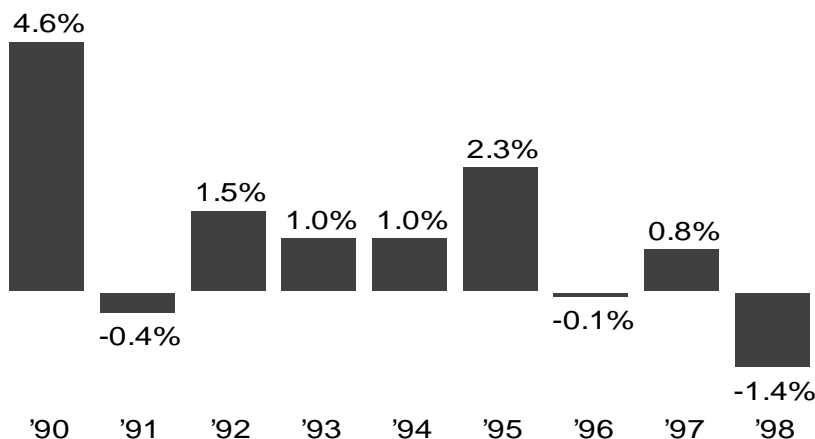
Southeast Alaska's annual average employment dropped 1.4% in 1998. (See Exhibit 11.) Although losses were seen in most sectors of the economy, large reductions in manufacturing drove the decline. (See Exhibit 12.) Manufacturing job

10 Wage & Salary Employment Change — Northern 1997-1998

	1997	1998	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,350	15,950	600	3.9%
Goods-producing	5,200	5,800	600	11.5
Service-producing	10,150	10,200	50	0.5
Mining	4,650	5,100	450	9.7
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,200	4,650	450	10.7
Government	4,650	4,500	-150	-3.2
Federal	200	150	-50	-25.0
State	300	300	0	0.0
Local	4,150	4,000	-150	-3.6

Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division

11 Southeast Employment Drops Percent employment change from previous year



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

losses were split among the logging, pulp mill, and seafood processing sectors. The services sector was the only source of job growth during the year. Mining and transportation employment levels were flat, and job losses in the retail sector contributed to the over-the-year decline in the region. Federal government employment continued to drop, and state and local government lost jobs as well.

Services are the bright spot in Southeast

The services sector added 300 jobs in 1998 and provided the only over-the-year increase in Southeast employment. The growth in services was consistent with a trend seen in the statewide economy, in which service jobs comprise a steadily increasing percentage of private sector employment. The largest number of jobs was added in amusement and recreation services. The growth was driven by adventure travel and guiding services, which catered to Southeast visitors during the busy tourist season. Although annual employment growth was strong in this sector, the jobs added were primarily part-time or seasonal positions.

Health services also added jobs, and a significant amount of the new employment came from the expansion of the Ketchikan General Hospital. Employment was also boosted as Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC) continued to add jobs.

Mining and transportation hold steady

The mining industry continued to be a strong employer in 1998, but no growth occurred in annual average employment. Greens Creek maintained 1997 employment levels, despite low mineral prices. Construction was completed at the Calder mine on Prince of Wales, and Sealaska began extracting limestone in January 1999.

Transportation employment remained flat in 1998. A gain in air transportation employment was offset by losses in water transportation and

trucking. AirOne, a regional air carrier owned by Taquan Air, began flight service between Southeast communities during the summer. AirOne provided daily service between Ketchikan, Klawock, Wrangell, Petersburg, Sitka and Juneau. The airline provided about 20 jobs in air transportation during the second half of 1998, but ceased operations in February 1999. Water transportation also lost jobs in marine cargo handling as a result of reduced demand for timber.

Job losses led by manufacturing

Manufacturing employment fell 11.6% from 1997 levels. Job losses in the wood products industry were primarily a result of decreased Asian demand for timber. The weak demand heavily affected logging employment during the year, and some timber sales that were offered in fall of 1998 received no bidders. The pulp mill in Ketchikan continued to cut jobs during 1998, and pulp mill annual average employment fell by 60%. The

Wage & Salary Employment **12** Change — Southeast 1997-1998

	1997	1998	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,950	35,450	-500	-1.4%
Goods-producing	5,500	5,050	-450	-8.2
Service-producing	30,450	30,450	0	0.0
Mining	350	350	0	0.0
Construction	1,700	1,600	-100	-5.9
Manufacturing	3,450	3,050	-400	-11.6
Durable Goods	1,500	1,300	-200	-13.3
Lumber & Wood Products	1,300	1,100	-200	-15.4
Nondurable Goods	1,950	1,750	-200	-10.3
Seafood Processing	1,450	1,400	-50	-3.4
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,900	2,900	0	0.0
Trade	6,600	6,500	-100	-1.5
Wholesale Trade	600	600	0	0.0
Retail Trade	6,000	5,900	-100	-1.7
Food Stores	1,400	1,350	-50	-3.6
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,550	1,500	-50	-3.2
Services & Misc.	7,050	7,350	300	4.3
Health Services	1,600	1,650	50	3.1
Government	12,400	12,250	-150	-1.2
Federal	1,950	1,800	-150	-7.7
State	5,350	5,300	-50	-0.9
Local	5,150	5,100	-50	-1.0

Benchmark: March 1998. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public schools and the University of Alaska.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

employees that remained were working to prepare the site for redevelopment, which in the future could house a ship demolition company, a wood chipping company, or a fish waste processing company.

Seafood processing lost 50 jobs during 1998. Winter fisheries employment was slightly below 1997 levels, and April through June employment was well below figures from the previous year. A significant portion of this drop was due to the sale of Wrangell Fisheries Inc. The company was being transferred to new owners in spring of 1998 and did not operate during April and May. The transfer was completed in June and the company began processing at that time. Herring quotas were down 30% from 1997, which also might account for some reduction in seafood processing employment during the spring. Seafood processing employment ramped back up to 1997 levels in the second half of the year in response to a strong salmon harvest.

Job losses in construction primarily took place in the heavy and special trades construction sectors. Although road construction kept crews employed in Ketchikan, Juneau, and on Prince of Wales, employment fell over the year.

The retail trade sector lost 100 jobs in 1998. JC Penney and Rite Aid closed stores in Juneau during summer, but employment had been lower in the retail sector for the first six months of 1998 before the stores closed. Even after the closures, employment in retail stores remained close to 1997 levels. The largest job loss in retail trade was due to a reporting change. A firm that had been included in eating and drinking establishments was moved to hotels and other lodging places in the services sector. Job reductions also took place in the food stores sector.

Finance, insurance, and real estate shed jobs during the year. The real estate sector lost the most jobs, and Ketchikan had a significant reduction in real estate agents. Two building operators in Juneau also reduced employment. Kake Tribal Corporation reduced employment significantly in response to weak demand for timber.

Public sector employment reductions were concentrated in the federal sector. The Forest Service continued to downsize as demand for timber remained weak. State and local government also cut jobs during the year, but state government losses were not as large as projected from last year's forecast.

Job growth, record low unemployment

Alaska's economy grew by 6,700 jobs in 1998. Broad-based job growth was led by the services sector and the transportation industry. A surge of oil industry development, a solid tourism year, retail expansion, and solid growth in the construction and financial sectors also contributed to employment growth. Meanwhile, Alaska's timber and seafood industries, along with the federal government, were the only negative factors in the state's employment growth. Accompanying the faster job growth were record low unemployment rates in many areas of the state, particularly those influenced by the oil and gas sector.

Regionally, only Southeast Alaska lost jobs. The Mat-Su Borough, Anchorage, Northern and Fairbanks regions were among the fastest growing, while Gulf Coast and Southwest regions grew at slower rates.

Benchmark Revises Data

by
John Boucher
Labor Economist

1997 and 1998 nonagricultural wage and salary figures updated

Each January, the Alaska Department of Labor (AKDOL) revises the nonagricultural wage and salary employment data series in a procedure called benchmarking. The 1998 benchmark revised the employment estimates for 1997 and 1998 with the most recent counts available. Those revised estimates are published in this issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*. (See Exhibits 2-19.)

Monthly job estimates based on a sample of employers

The employment estimates published on a month-to-month basis in *Alaska Economic Trends* are based on a sample of employers. Current employment and payroll information from more than 1,500 of Alaska's 16,000 wage and salary employers is used by AKDOL to produce the monthly wage and salary employment estimates. Less than 10 percent of Alaska's employers take part in the survey, but they represent nearly half of total nonagricultural employment. For example, the firms sampled in June 1998 accounted for 133,700 jobs out of the total nonagricultural employment of 287,900 (46.4%). These firms voluntarily participate in the U.S. Department of Labor's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The firms' data allow AKDOL economists to produce reliable and timely estimates on both the direction and the magnitude of movement of nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

Revised employment estimates incorporate latest UI tax data

Quarterly Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax reports, referred to as the *Quarterly Report of*

Employment and Wages or the ES-202 report, provide the most comprehensive count of nonagricultural wage and salary employment for Alaska. However, ES-202 data are not immediately incorporated into the current employment estimates because there is a six- to nine-month lag in collection, processing and publication of this information. (The ES-202 data are published annually in AKDOL's *Employment and Earnings Summary Report*.) The recently completed benchmark process, though, incorporates the most recent ES-202 data available.

During the benchmark, revised estimates were

Job Growth was Understated In original estimates



Wage and Salary Employment

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

calculated through December 1998. These estimates incorporate ES-202 data through June 1998. The remaining six months of 1998 were revised using an augmented CES sample. The new sample incorporated employer information unavailable when the original estimates were produced.

annual average basis, the original estimates showed an employment increase of 2.1% from 1997 to 1998, while the benchmarked estimates showed employment growth of 2.5%.

Estimates lagged employment growth

The statewide wage and salary employment estimate tracked the trend of the benchmarked employment numbers fairly accurately during 1997 and 1998. However, the sample-generated estimates understated employment growth in Alaska's economy for 1998. (See Exhibit 1.) On an

Several series affected by classification and location changes

As part of ongoing collection of ES-202 employment data, one-third of Alaska's employers are surveyed annually to confirm the accuracy of their industry classification and business location. The survey results are incorporated into the AKDOL employment series at benchmark. During the process of incorporating the survey results, a small percentage of employers change their

2 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Alaska 1997

Exhibits 2-5 prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. "Government" includes employees of the public school systems and the University of Alaska. Subtotals may not add due to rounding. Benchmark: March 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	246,900	253,300	255,900	261,600	272,600	283,000	289,400	288,000	282,000	271,100	262,100	258,900	268,700
Goods-producing	29,700	33,400	34,600	35,800	38,200	43,300	49,800	47,400	43,100	38,500	32,700	29,300	38,000
Service-producing	217,200	219,900	221,300	225,800	234,400	239,700	239,600	240,600	238,900	232,600	229,400	229,600	230,800
Mining	8,900	9,100	9,200	9,500	9,900	10,100	10,500	10,700	11,100	10,900	9,600	10,000	10,000
Oil & Gas Extraction	7,600	7,700	7,800	8,000	8,300	8,300	8,500	8,800	9,200	9,200	8,000	8,500	8,300
Construction	9,400	9,400	9,400	10,700	13,200	15,000	15,800	16,500	15,800	14,800	12,500	11,200	12,800
Manufacturing	11,400	14,900	16,000	15,600	15,100	18,200	23,500	20,200	16,200	12,800	10,600	8,100	15,200
Durable Goods	1,700	2,100	2,800	3,000	3,200	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,500	3,400	3,000	2,600	3,000
Lumber & Wood Products	800	1,200	1,700	1,900	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,100	1,600	1,900
Nondurable Goods	9,700	12,800	13,200	12,600	11,900	14,700	19,900	16,600	12,700	9,400	7,600	5,500	12,200
Seafood Processing	6,700	9,900	10,200	9,700	9,200	11,900	17,100	13,900	10,000	6,700	4,900	2,800	9,400
Transportation/Comm/Util	21,300	21,800	22,100	22,900	24,700	25,900	26,200	26,600	26,200	24,800	23,900	23,400	24,200
Trucking & Warehousing	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,900	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,800
Water Transportation	1,500	1,700	1,700	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,000	1,700	1,600	2,000
Air Transportation	7,400	7,500	7,600	7,900	8,300	8,900	9,100	9,200	9,000	8,800	8,500	8,600	8,400
Communications	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,900	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,000	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,200	4,000
Electric/Gas/Sanitary	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,300
Trade	51,400	50,900	51,200	53,100	56,600	59,900	61,000	60,900	58,200	55,600	55,700	55,700	55,900
Wholesale Trade	8,300	8,300	8,500	8,600	8,900	9,300	9,400	9,300	8,900	8,500	8,600	8,600	8,800
Retail Trade	43,100	42,600	42,700	44,500	47,700	50,600	51,600	51,600	49,300	47,100	47,100	47,100	47,100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,000	8,400	8,300	8,600	9,000	9,600	9,800	9,800	9,300	9,600	9,900	10,000	9,300
Food Stores	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,800	7,100	7,500	7,600	7,600	7,300	7,100	7,200	7,200	7,100
Eating/Drinking Places	13,600	13,900	14,000	14,900	16,300	17,800	18,200	18,300	17,400	15,700	15,300	15,000	15,900
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	11,600	11,500	11,600	11,800	12,200	12,600	12,900	12,900	12,700	12,200	12,100	12,200	12,200
Services & Misc.	60,300	61,400	62,000	63,100	66,500	69,000	70,000	70,100	68,400	65,400	63,700	64,100	65,300
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,800	4,800	5,100	5,400	6,900	8,400	9,000	8,800	7,900	6,200	5,200	5,300	6,500
Business Services	7,900	7,900	8,100	8,200	8,700	9,000	9,100	9,100	9,000	8,700	8,600	8,700	8,600
Health Services	14,100	14,300	14,400	14,500	14,800	14,900	14,900	14,900	14,800	14,800	14,700	14,800	14,700
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700
Social Services	6,800	6,900	7,000	7,000	7,000	6,800	6,700	6,800	6,900	7,100	7,100	7,200	6,900
Engineering & Mgmt. Svc.	6,800	6,900	7,000	7,100	7,200	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,300	7,200	7,100	7,100	7,200
Government	72,600	74,300	74,400	74,900	74,400	72,300	69,500	70,100	73,400	74,600	74,000	74,200	73,200
Federal	16,800	16,800	16,900	16,900	17,600	18,000	18,100	18,100	17,700	17,100	17,000	17,100	17,300
State	21,200	22,000	22,100	22,400	20,900	20,800	20,000	20,100	21,400	21,500	21,500	21,400	21,300
Local	34,600	35,500	35,400	35,600	35,900	33,500	31,400	31,900	34,300	36,000	35,500	35,700	34,600

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

industry and/or location. This, in turn, can affect the trend and level of the published employment series. The 1998 benchmark altered several published employment series due to location and/or industry modifications. The following published series were influenced by industry or location changes:

Statewide: Oil and Gas Extraction; Construction

Southeast: Eating & Drinking Places; Hotels and Lodging Places

Northern: Oil & Gas Extraction; Construction

For a detailed description of the effects industry and location code changes had on these series, contact AKDOL's Research and Analysis Section at (907) 465-4500.

Hours and earnings statistics also revised

Employers also provide the data used to estimate hours and earnings statistics. During the benchmark, these estimates are adjusted to reflect the revised level of employment. When the employment data are benchmarked, the hours and earnings data are reviewed to determine how employment changes affected the hours and earnings estimates. (See Exhibit 20.) Usually,

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment **3** Alaska 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	254,700	261,700	264,800	268,400	278,200	287,900	295,100	294,400	288,500	277,200	269,300	265,100	275,400
Goods-producing	31,500	35,500	36,000	35,800	37,400	41,500	49,100	47,700	43,600	39,000	34,000	30,200	38,400
Service-producing	223,200	226,200	228,800	232,600	240,800	246,400	246,000	246,700	244,900	238,200	235,300	234,900	237,000
Mining	10,000	10,200	10,000	10,100	10,300	10,500	10,800	11,000	11,000	10,900	10,400	10,300	10,500
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,500	8,700	8,500	8,600	8,600	8,800	9,000	9,300	9,300	9,300	8,900	8,900	8,900
Construction	10,200	10,400	10,800	11,700	13,500	15,200	16,300	16,900	16,200	15,000	13,000	11,700	13,400
Manufacturing	11,300	14,900	15,200	14,000	13,600	15,800	22,000	19,800	16,400	13,100	10,600	8,200	14,600
Durable Goods	1,700	1,900	2,300	2,700	2,900	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	2,700	2,400	2,700
Lumber/Wood Products	800	1,000	1,300	1,600	1,700	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,400	1,600
Nondurable Goods	9,600	13,000	12,900	11,300	10,700	12,700	18,900	16,700	13,300	10,100	7,900	5,800	11,900
Seafood Processing	6,900	10,400	10,200	8,600	8,000	10,000	16,200	14,000	10,600	7,400	5,200	3,100	9,200
Transportation/Comm/Util	23,100	23,600	24,000	24,400	26,300	27,100	27,500	28,200	27,200	25,800	24,800	24,400	25,500
Trucking & Warehousing	2,800	2,700	2,800	2,800	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,900	2,900
Water Transportation	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,700	2,000	2,300	2,400	2,500	2,300	1,900	1,600	1,500	1,900
Air Transportation	8,400	8,400	8,700	8,900	9,300	9,700	9,800	9,900	9,600	9,200	8,900	9,000	9,200
Communications	4,200	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,400	4,500	4,500	4,400	4,400	4,400	4,400
Electric/Gas/Sanitary Svc	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,500
Trade	52,400	52,300	53,100	54,500	57,800	60,800	61,700	61,500	59,600	56,600	56,500	56,500	56,900
Wholesale Trade	8,600	8,700	8,800	8,800	9,200	9,400	9,700	9,700	9,300	8,800	8,700	8,700	9,000
Retail Trade	43,800	43,600	44,300	45,700	48,600	51,400	52,000	51,800	50,300	47,800	47,800	47,800	47,900
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	8,700	8,300	8,400	8,500	8,900	9,300	9,400	9,300	9,300	9,500	10,000	10,000	9,100
Food Stores	6,900	6,800	6,900	6,900	7,200	7,500	7,600	7,600	7,400	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,200
Eating/Drinking Places	14,000	14,300	14,700	15,500	16,900	18,100	18,400	18,400	17,700	15,900	15,600	15,400	16,200
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	12,000	11,900	12,100	12,200	12,500	12,800	13,100	13,200	12,800	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Services & Misc.	62,900	64,000	65,100	66,500	69,500	72,900	73,800	73,600	71,400	68,600	67,000	67,100	68,500
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,800	4,900	5,200	5,500	7,000	8,800	9,200	9,100	8,100	6,500	5,500	5,500	6,700
Business Services	8,000	8,300	8,400	8,600	8,800	9,200	9,400	9,400	9,200	9,100	9,100	9,100	8,900
Health Services	14,800	14,800	14,900	14,900	15,000	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,100	15,000
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Social Services	7,300	7,300	7,500	7,500	7,600	7,300	7,300	7,400	7,300	7,400	7,500	7,500	7,400
Engineering & Mgmt. Svc.	7,300	7,400	7,500	7,800	7,900	8,200	8,200	8,300	8,200	8,000	7,800	7,800	7,900
Government	72,800	74,400	74,500	75,000	74,700	72,800	69,900	70,200	73,900	74,700	74,500	74,400	73,500
Federal	16,800	16,800	16,800	16,900	17,600	17,900	18,000	17,900	17,500	16,700	16,500	16,600	17,200
State	20,700	21,700	21,700	22,100	20,900	21,000	20,100	20,200	21,700	22,100	22,100	21,900	21,400
Local	35,300	35,900	36,000	36,000	36,200	33,900	31,800	32,100	34,700	35,900	35,900	35,900	35,000

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

the hours and earnings data change either due to the benchmarking of employment or to the addition of data from new firms to augment the existing hours and earnings sample. (Hours and earnings data are not reported in the quarterly ES-202 report; therefore, estimates of average weekly hours and earnings data are entirely sample-based.)

Unemployment a record low rate in 1998

Alaska's statewide jobless rate set a record low in 1998, averaging 5.8% for the year. The previous record low was 6.7%, set in 1989, the year of the Exxon Valdez oil spill cleanup. Besides setting a record, the annual unemployment rate extended to six straight years Alaska's string of unemployment rates below 8.0%. (See Exhibit 21.)

4 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Municipality of Anchorage 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	117,500	118,300	118,900	121,100	124,700	127,500	127,500	128,000	127,100	126,000	125,300	125,400	123,900
Goods-producing	9,100	9,200	9,200	9,900	11,100	12,000	12,700	12,900	12,400	11,900	10,600	9,900	10,900
Service-producing	108,400	109,100	109,700	111,200	113,600	115,500	114,800	115,100	114,700	114,100	114,700	115,500	113,000
Mining	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,400
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,200	2,200
Construction	5,100	5,000	4,900	5,500	6,700	7,500	8,000	8,400	8,000	7,600	6,500	5,800	6,600
Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,800	1,800	2,000
Transportation/Comm/Util	11,400	11,400	11,500	11,800	12,300	12,700	13,000	13,000	12,900	12,600	12,600	12,500	12,300
Air Transportation	4,700	4,700	4,800	4,900	5,000	5,200	5,300	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,500	5,100
Communications	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,400
Trade	29,400	29,000	29,200	29,800	30,800	31,500	31,700	31,800	31,200	30,800	31,400	31,800	30,700
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,100	6,300	6,300	6,500	6,600	6,400	6,400	6,200	6,100	6,300	6,300	6,300
Retail Trade	23,200	22,900	22,900	23,500	24,300	24,900	25,300	25,400	25,000	24,700	25,100	25,500	24,400
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,500	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,600	4,700	4,900	4,800	4,800	5,000	5,200	5,300	4,700
Food Stores	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,100	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000
Eating/Drinking Places	8,100	8,100	8,000	8,400	8,700	9,000	9,100	9,300	9,100	8,600	8,700	8,800	8,700
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	6,900	6,900	6,900	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,500	7,500	7,400	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,200
Services & Misc.	33,000	33,700	34,000	34,200	35,500	36,000	35,900	35,800	35,400	35,200	34,900	35,100	34,900
Hotels/ Lodging Places	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,700	2,800	2,900	2,900	2,700	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,600
Business Services	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,900	6,200	6,300	6,500	6,500	6,300	6,000	6,100	6,100	6,100
Health Services	7,200	7,300	7,400	7,400	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,800	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,700	7,600
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Social Services	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,000	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,200	3,200	3,100
Engineering/Mgmt. Svc.	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,300	5,500	5,100	5,000	5,100	5,300	5,200	5,200	5,200
Government	27,700	28,100	28,100	28,300	27,800	28,000	26,700	27,000	27,800	28,200	28,500	28,800	27,900
Federal	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,800	9,900	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,200	10,000
State	8,100	8,300	8,300	8,400	7,900	7,900	7,400	7,600	8,200	8,200	8,300	8,300	8,100
Local	9,800	10,000	10,000	10,100	10,000	10,000	9,200	9,300	9,600	10,100	10,200	10,300	9,900

Benchmark 1998. Exhibits 6-19 prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of the public school systems and the University of Alaska.

6 Anchorage/Mat-Su 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	127,800	128,850	129,400	131,900	136,350	139,400	139,500	140,650	139,300	137,950	136,550	136,750	135,350
Goods-producing	9,900	9,950	9,850	10,650	12,100	13,150	13,750	14,150	13,600	13,100	11,550	10,900	11,900
Service-producing	117,900	118,900	119,550	121,250	124,250	126,250	125,750	126,500	125,700	124,850	125,000	125,850	123,500
Mining	2,250	2,350	2,300	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,500	2,450	2,450	2,450	2,300	2,350	2,400
Construction	5,700	5,600	5,450	6,100	7,500	8,450	8,950	9,400	9,000	8,650	7,300	6,600	7,400
Manufacturing	1,950	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,150	2,250	2,300	2,300	2,150	2,000	1,950	1,950	2,100
Transportation/Comm/Util	12,350	12,400	12,500	12,850	13,400	13,750	14,000	14,150	14,050	13,650	13,550	13,500	13,350
Trade	31,850	31,600	31,700	32,450	33,600	34,500	34,700	34,800	34,100	33,600	34,200	34,500	33,450
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,550	7,650	7,800	8,000	8,000	7,850	7,750	7,750	7,800	7,700
Services & Misc.	35,600	36,300	36,650	37,000	38,600	39,300	39,300	39,300	38,800	38,450	37,950	38,150	37,950
Government	30,700	31,200	31,300	31,400	31,000	30,900	29,750	30,250	30,900	31,400	31,550	31,900	31,000
Federal	9,900	9,900	9,950	9,900	10,050	10,200	10,250	10,300	10,150	10,050	10,100	10,300	10,100
State	8,900	9,150	9,200	9,300	8,800	8,800	8,500	8,700	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,100	9,000
Local	11,900	12,150	12,150	12,200	12,150	11,900	11,000	11,250	11,650	12,250	12,350	12,500	11,950

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Alaska's unemployment rate set record lows in 1998 due to a combination of factors. First, Alaska's wage and salary job count has grown, increasing the number of job opportunities available. While the number of jobs available increased, net migration to Alaska slowed significantly. (Net migration is estimated by taking the number of individuals entering the state and subtracting the number of individuals leaving the state.) This meant that the

net number of adults moving to Alaska who could fill the additional wage and salary jobs was relatively small. The slow rate of net migration meant that employers increasingly relied upon the state's resident labor force to fill additional wage and salary jobs. This trend was an important factor contributing to the record low statewide unemployment rate last year.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Municipality of Anchorage 1998 5

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	122,000	123,500	124,500	126,500	129,700	132,100	132,700	132,700	132,000	130,900	130,000	130,200	128,900
Goods-producing	9,900	10,100	10,100	10,500	11,700	12,600	13,200	13,600	13,200	12,500	11,300	10,700	11,600
Service-producing	112,100	113,400	114,400	116,000	118,000	119,500	119,500	119,100	118,800	118,400	118,700	119,500	117,300
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,800	2,700	2,700	2,600	2,700
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Construction	5,500	5,600	5,600	5,900	7,000	7,900	8,300	8,700	8,300	7,800	6,700	6,200	7,000
Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,000	1,900	1,900	2,000
Transportation/Comm/Util	12,400	12,500	12,700	12,900	13,400	13,800	13,900	14,000	13,600	13,300	13,200	13,200	13,200
Air Transportation	5,500	5,400	5,600	5,700	5,800	6,000	6,100	6,100	6,000	5,900	5,800	5,900	5,800
Communications	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	2,600	2,600
Trade	29,800	29,800	30,200	30,400	31,300	32,100	32,300	32,200	31,900	31,400	32,100	32,300	31,300
Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,400	6,400	6,500	6,600	6,700	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,300	6,400	6,400	6,500
Retail Trade	23,500	23,400	23,800	23,900	24,700	25,400	25,600	25,600	25,400	25,100	25,700	25,900	24,800
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,400	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,700	5,100	5,100	4,600
Food Stores	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000
Eating/Drinking Places	8,100	8,300	8,500	8,500	9,000	9,300	9,300	9,500	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000	8,900
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	7,200	7,200	7,300	7,400	7,500	7,600	7,700	7,600	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Services & Misc.	34,300	35,100	35,500	36,400	37,000	37,600	37,900	37,600	37,100	37,100	36,800	37,200	36,600
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,600	2,900	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,700	2,500	2,600	2,600
Business Services	5,700	6,100	6,100	6,300	6,300	6,600	6,700	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,600	6,500	6,400
Health Services	7,600	7,700	7,700	7,800	7,800	7,900	8,000	8,000	7,900	8,000	8,000	8,100	7,900
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Social Services	3,300	3,300	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,500
Engineering & Mgmt. Svc.	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,500	5,600	5,500	5,600	5,500
Government	28,400	28,800	28,700	28,900	28,800	28,400	27,700	27,700	28,700	29,100	29,100	29,300	28,600
Federal	9,900	9,900	9,900	9,900	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,200	10,100	9,900	9,900	10,000	10,100
State	8,100	8,300	8,300	8,400	8,000	8,000	7,800	7,900	8,500	8,800	8,800	8,800	8,300
Local	10,400	10,600	10,500	10,600	10,500	10,100	9,600	9,600	10,100	10,400	10,400	10,500	10,300

Anchorage/Mat-Su 1998 7

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	132,800	134,300	135,950	138,050	142,050	145,250	145,250	145,800	144,750	143,500	142,100	142,000	141,000
Goods-producing	10,700	10,800	11,000	11,450	12,800	13,950	14,600	15,000	14,550	13,850	12,550	11,900	12,750
Service-producing	122,100	123,500	124,950	126,600	129,250	131,300	130,650	130,800	130,200	129,650	129,550	130,100	128,200
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,650	2,600	2,700	2,650	2,750	2,800	2,800	2,750	2,700	2,650	2,700
Construction	6,200	6,250	6,300	6,750	7,900	9,000	9,500	9,850	9,500	8,950	7,750	7,250	7,950
Manufacturing	1,900	1,950	2,050	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,350	2,350	2,250	2,150	2,100	2,000	2,150
Transportation/Comm/Util	13,350	13,500	13,700	14,000	14,550	14,750	14,850	15,100	14,800	14,400	14,250	14,250	14,300
Trade	32,450	32,400	32,900	33,150	34,200	35,150	35,300	35,300	35,000	34,400	34,950	35,100	34,200
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	7,700	7,700	7,800	7,900	8,050	8,150	8,150	8,100	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	7,950
Services & Misc.	37,100	37,950	38,500	39,400	40,400	41,400	41,650	41,500	40,750	40,600	40,150	40,400	40,000
Government	31,500	31,950	32,050	32,150	32,050	31,850	30,700	30,800	31,650	32,250	32,200	32,350	31,800
Federal	10,050	10,050	10,050	10,050	10,400	10,500	10,500	10,350	10,250	10,050	10,050	10,150	10,200
State	8,850	9,150	9,200	9,300	8,850	8,850	8,650	8,700	9,350	9,650	9,600	9,550	9,150
Local	12,600	12,750	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,500	11,550	11,750	12,050	12,550	12,550	12,650	12,450

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

8 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Fairbanks North Star Borough 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	29,450	30,050	30,200	31,350	32,300	33,150	33,450	33,650	33,650	33,250	32,400	31,950	32,050
Goods-producing	2,250	2,350	2,500	2,850	3,450	3,850	4,250	4,350	4,050	4,000	3,250	3,000	3,350
Service-producing	27,200	27,700	27,700	28,500	28,850	29,300	29,200	29,300	29,600	29,250	29,150	28,950	28,750
Mining	750	850	1,000	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,250	1,550	1,100	1,150	1,150
Construction	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,250	1,750	2,050	2,300	2,300	2,200	1,900	1,600	1,350	1,650
Manufacturing	450	450	450	500	550	600	650	650	600	550	550	500	550
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,050	2,100	2,150	2,250	2,550	2,650	2,700	2,700	2,650	2,650	2,800	2,650	2,500
Trucking & Warehousing	500	500	500	500	600	650	650	600	600	550	500	500	550
Air Transportation	600	650	650	650	700	750	750	750	750	750	700	700	700
Communications	250	250	250	250	250	250	300	300	300	300	450	400	300
Trade	6,200	6,050	6,150	6,400	6,700	7,100	7,250	7,300	7,050	7,050	7,100	7,100	6,800
Wholesale Trade	750	750	750	800	850	850	900	900	850	850	850	800	850
Retail Trade	5,450	5,300	5,400	5,600	5,850	6,250	6,350	6,400	6,200	6,200	6,250	6,300	5,950
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,250	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,350	1,450	1,400	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,450	1,300
Food Stores	700	700	700	750	750	850	900	850	800	800	800	800	800
Eating & Drinking Places	1,700	1,700	1,750	1,850	1,950	2,050	2,050	2,150	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,050	1,950
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,000	950	950	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,000	1,050	1,050
Services & Misc.	7,450	7,600	7,500	7,650	8,000	8,350	8,650	8,600	8,250	7,600	7,500	7,450	7,900
Hotels & Lodging Places	500	550	600	600	800	1,100	1,250	1,100	1,100	700	650	650	800
Health Services	1,850	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Government	10,500	11,000	10,950	11,200	10,550	10,100	9,500	9,600	10,550	10,900	10,750	10,700	10,550
Federal	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,250	3,400	3,550	3,550	3,550	3,400	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,350
State	4,250	4,700	4,700	4,800	3,950	3,800	3,300	3,350	4,200	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,200
Local	3,050	3,100	3,050	3,150	3,200	2,750	2,650	2,700	2,950	3,100	2,900	2,850	2,950

Benchmark 1998. Exhibits 6-19 prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska. Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

10 Interior 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	33,800	34,600	34,950	36,300	38,600	40,550	40,800	40,900	40,450	39,150	37,350	36,550	37,850
Goods-producing	2,750	2,850	3,050	3,400	4,050	4,600	4,950	5,050	4,700	4,550	3,700	3,400	3,900
Service-producing	31,050	31,750	31,900	32,900	34,550	35,950	35,850	35,850	35,750	34,600	33,650	33,150	33,900
Mining	950	1,050	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,450	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,850	1,400	1,400	1,400
Construction	1,350	1,300	1,350	1,600	2,100	2,500	2,650	2,650	2,500	2,100	1,750	1,450	1,950
Manufacturing	450	500	500	500	550	650	700	700	600	600	550	550	550
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,400	2,550	2,600	2,700	3,300	3,500	3,550	3,600	3,450	3,450	3,250	3,050	3,100
Trade	6,750	6,600	6,700	7,050	7,800	8,850	9,200	9,150	8,650	8,000	7,800	7,650	7,850
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Services & Misc.	8,150	8,300	8,250	8,500	9,150	9,750	10,050	10,000	9,550	8,700	8,400	8,350	8,950
Hotels & Lodging Places	600	650	700	750	1,200	1,750	1,850	1,750	1,650	1,000	750	750	1,100
Government	12,700	13,250	13,300	13,550	13,150	12,650	11,850	11,900	12,950	13,350	13,100	13,000	12,900
Federal	3,800	3,800	3,850	3,850	4,100	4,250	4,250	4,250	4,100	3,900	3,850	3,850	4,000
State	4,450	4,900	4,950	5,050	4,250	4,150	3,750	3,700	4,450	4,750	4,800	4,750	4,500
Local	4,450	4,550	4,500	4,650	4,800	4,250	3,850	3,950	4,400	4,700	4,450	4,400	4,400

12 Northern 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	14,650	14,750	14,850	14,800	15,100	15,400	15,850	15,900	16,000	15,900	15,200	15,650	15,350
Goods-producing	4,800	4,800	4,850	4,850	5,000	5,200	5,450	5,600	5,550	5,500	5,150	5,450	5,200
Service-producing	9,850	9,950	10,000	9,950	10,100	10,200	10,400	10,300	10,450	10,400	10,050	10,200	10,150
Mining	4,500	4,450	4,450	4,400	4,550	4,700	4,750	4,850	4,850	4,850	4,450	4,800	4,650
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,050	4,000	4,050	4,000	4,150	4,250	4,300	4,400	4,350	4,400	4,000	4,400	4,200
Government	4,650	4,700	4,700	4,650	4,700	4,600	4,500	4,400	4,700	4,750	4,600	4,650	4,650
Federal	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	150	200	200
State	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Local	4,150	4,200	4,200	4,150	4,200	4,100	4,000	3,900	4,200	4,250	4,150	4,150	4,150

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment **9**

Fairbanks North Star Borough 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	30,450	31,200	31,450	31,950	32,850	33,850	33,750	33,850	33,950	32,850	32,600	32,050	32,550
Goods-producing	2,550	2,550	2,450	2,700	3,100	3,650	4,000	4,050	3,900	3,550	3,250	2,850	3,200
Service-producing	27,900	28,650	29,000	29,250	29,750	30,200	29,750	29,800	30,050	29,300	29,350	29,200	29,350
Mining	900	900	750	700	750	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	850	900
Construction	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,450	1,750	2,150	2,350	2,400	2,250	1,950	1,800	1,450	1,750
Manufacturing	500	500	500	550	600	600	650	650	650	600	550	550	600
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,650	2,750	2,800	2,800	3,150	3,200	3,200	3,250	3,150	2,950	2,900	2,800	2,950
Trucking & Warehousing	550	600	600	600	650	700	700	700	650	600	550	550	600
Air Transportation	650	650	650	700	700	750	750	750	750	750	700	700	700
Communications	450	400	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450
Trade	6,550	6,550	6,650	6,700	6,950	7,200	7,250	7,200	7,100	7,000	7,100	7,100	6,950
Wholesale Trade	800	850	850	850	900	900	900	950	900	850	850	850	850
Retail Trade	5,750	5,700	5,800	5,850	6,050	6,300	6,350	6,250	6,200	6,150	6,250	6,250	6,100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,250	1,300	1,250	1,200	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,350	1,250
Food Stores	750	750	750	700	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	800	750
Eating/Drinking Places	1,850	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,150	2,200	2,200	2,150	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,050
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Services & Misc.	7,400	7,550	7,700	7,850	8,250	8,800	8,950	8,850	8,350	7,800	7,600	7,550	8,050
Hotels & Lodging Places	600	650	700	700	900	1,250	1,250	1,150	950	800	750	700	850
Health Services	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850
Government	10,250	10,750	10,800	10,850	10,300	9,850	9,250	9,400	10,350	10,450	10,650	10,650	10,300
Federal	3,250	3,300	3,300	3,250	3,350	3,400	3,500	3,500	3,350	3,100	3,100	3,050	3,300
State	4,150	4,600	4,600	4,700	4,000	3,900	3,300	3,400	4,250	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,200
Local	2,850	2,850	2,900	2,900	2,950	2,550	2,450	2,500	2,750	2,850	3,000	3,050	2,800

Interior 1998 **11**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	34,900	35,800	36,100	37,250	39,250	41,000	40,750	40,900	40,650	38,350	37,350	36,350	38,200
Goods-producing	2,850	2,950	2,850	3,000	3,450	4,000	4,300	4,400	4,250	3,800	3,500	3,050	3,550
Service-producing	32,050	32,850	33,250	34,250	35,800	37,000	36,450	36,500	36,400	34,550	33,850	33,300	34,700
Mining	1,150	1,150	950	950	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,050	1,000	1,100
Construction	1,200	1,250	1,350	1,500	1,850	2,250	2,450	2,500	2,350	2,000	1,850	1,500	1,850
Manufacturing	500	550	550	550	600	650	650	700	700	650	600	550	600
Transportation/Comm/Util	3,050	3,200	3,300	3,350	3,900	4,100	4,150	4,200	4,100	3,750	3,500	3,200	3,650
Trade	7,150	7,100	7,200	7,700	8,300	9,050	9,100	9,100	8,550	7,950	7,800	7,650	8,050
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
Services & Misc.	8,300	8,450	8,550	8,850	9,550	10,350	10,550	10,400	9,800	8,800	8,400	8,400	9,200
Hotels & Lodging Places	700	750	800	800	1,400	1,900	1,950	1,850	1,650	1,050	850	800	1,200
Government	12,450	13,000	13,100	13,250	12,850	12,300	11,450	11,600	12,750	12,900	13,000	12,900	12,650
Federal	3,850	3,850	3,850	3,900	4,050	4,150	4,200	4,200	4,000	3,700	3,650	3,600	3,900
State	4,350	4,800	4,850	4,950	4,300	4,200	3,650	3,700	4,550	4,750	4,800	4,750	4,450
Local	4,250	4,350	4,400	4,400	4,500	3,950	3,600	3,700	4,200	4,450	4,550	4,550	4,250

Northern 1998 **13**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	15,650	15,950	15,950	16,000	15,650	15,950	16,150	16,400	16,300	16,100	15,700	15,750	15,950
Goods-producing	5,550	5,850	5,850	5,950	5,600	5,800	5,900	6,100	5,950	5,800	5,500	5,500	5,800
Service-producing	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,050	10,050	10,150	10,250	10,300	10,350	10,300	10,200	10,250	10,200
Mining	4,850	5,050	5,000	5,100	5,050	5,200	5,250	5,350	5,250	5,200	5,000	5,050	5,100
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,400	4,600	4,550	4,700	4,600	4,700	4,750	4,900	4,800	4,750	4,600	4,600	4,650
Government	4,550	4,500	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,450	4,350	4,300	4,600	4,450	4,400	4,450	4,500
Federal	150	150	200	150	150	200	200	200	200	150	150	150	150
State	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	350	350	300	300	300	300
Local	4,100	4,050	4,050	4,100	4,100	3,950	3,850	3,750	4,050	4,000	3,950	4,000	4,000

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

14 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Southeast 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	31,600	32,450	33,300	34,650	37,200	38,600	40,250	41,250	39,400	35,700	33,900	32,950	35,950
Goods-producing	3,450	3,900	4,550	5,000	5,500	6,050	7,600	8,100	6,850	5,700	4,850	4,200	5,500
Service-producing	28,150	28,550	28,750	29,650	31,700	32,550	32,650	33,150	32,550	30,000	29,050	28,750	30,450
Mining	300	300	300	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Construction	1,250	1,250	1,350	1,550	1,900	2,050	2,050	2,050	1,900	1,850	1,650	1,500	1,700
Manufacturing	1,900	2,350	2,900	3,100	3,250	3,650	5,200	5,700	4,600	3,500	2,850	2,350	3,450
Durable Goods	650	900	1,350	1,450	1,700	1,800	1,850	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,650	1,300	1,500
Lumber & Wood Products	450	700	1,100	1,250	1,450	1,600	1,650	1,700	1,650	1,650	1,450	1,100	1,300
Nondurable Goods	1,250	1,450	1,550	1,650	1,550	1,850	3,350	3,800	2,750	1,650	1,200	1,050	1,950
Seafood Processing	500	750	900	1,100	1,150	1,400	2,950	3,400	2,350	1,300	850	700	1,450
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,250	2,250	2,400	2,550	3,100	3,550	3,500	3,600	3,550	2,850	2,550	2,450	2,900
Trade	5,700	5,700	5,750	6,100	7,100	7,600	7,750	7,700	7,100	6,400	6,150	6,050	6,600
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	550	600	600	650	650	650	600	600	550	600
Retail Trade	5,150	5,150	5,200	5,550	6,500	7,000	7,100	7,050	6,450	5,800	5,550	5,500	6,000
Food Stores	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,400
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,400	1,450	1,500	1,450	1,550	1,650	1,700	1,700	1,650	1,500	1,450	1,450	1,550
Services & Misc.	6,300	6,400	6,500	6,750	7,200	7,650	7,900	8,050	7,750	6,800	6,550	6,600	7,050
Health Services	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Government	12,500	12,750	12,600	12,800	12,750	12,100	11,800	12,100	12,500	12,450	12,350	12,200	12,400
Federal	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,150	2,150	2,050	1,900	1,800	1,750	1,950
State	5,450	5,500	5,450	5,550	5,400	5,300	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,250	5,250	5,200	5,350
Local	5,250	5,450	5,350	5,350	5,350	4,700	4,550	4,750	5,150	5,300	5,300	5,250	5,150

16 Gulf Coast 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	23,200	24,600	24,700	26,100	27,550	30,850	33,150	32,500	29,500	26,200	24,550	23,600	27,200
Goods-producing	4,650	5,800	5,700	6,250	6,600	8,800	11,000	10,100	7,950	6,100	5,050	4,100	6,850
Service-producing	18,550	18,800	19,000	19,850	20,950	22,050	22,150	22,400	21,550	20,100	19,500	19,500	20,350
Mining	950	1,000	950	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,300	1,800	1,400	1,150	1,150	1,200
Oil & Gas Extraction	950	1,000	950	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,300	1,800	1,400	1,150	1,150	1,200
Construction	700	750	800	950	1,200	1,400	1,400	1,550	1,500	1,450	1,100	950	1,150
Manufacturing	3,000	4,050	3,950	4,300	4,250	6,250	8,400	7,250	4,650	3,250	2,800	2,000	4,500
Seafood Processing	2,050	3,000	2,750	3,100	3,050	5,050	7,200	6,000	3,400	2,050	1,650	850	3,350
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,150	2,250	2,300	2,350	2,450	2,550	2,650	2,750	2,550	2,450	2,300	2,250	2,400
Trade	4,350	4,350	4,400	4,750	5,250	5,800	6,300	6,200	5,550	4,900	4,800	4,700	5,100
Wholesale Trade	500	500	500	600	600	650	850	900	800	600	550	550	650
Retail Trade	3,850	3,850	3,900	4,150	4,650	5,150	5,450	5,300	4,750	4,300	4,250	4,150	4,500
Eating & Drinking Places	1,100	1,150	1,250	1,350	1,600	1,850	2,000	1,900	1,650	1,350	1,300	1,200	1,500
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	650	650	650	700	750	750	750	750	750	700	700	700	700
Services & Misc.	4,750	4,750	4,900	5,150	5,600	6,100	6,150	6,200	5,800	5,200	4,950	5,100	5,400
Health Services	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Government	6,650	6,800	6,750	6,900	6,900	6,850	6,300	6,500	6,900	6,850	6,750	6,750	6,750
Federal	700	650	650	700	750	800	800	850	800	700	650	650	750
State	1,600	1,650	1,650	1,700	1,650	1,750	1,750	1,700	1,700	1,650	1,600	1,550	1,650
Local	4,350	4,500	4,450	4,500	4,500	4,300	3,750	3,950	4,400	4,500	4,500	4,550	4,350

Benchmark 1998. Exhibits 6-19 prepared in part with funding from the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division. "Government" includes employees of the public school systems and the University of Alaska. Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

18 Southwest 1997

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	15,800	18,050	18,550	17,750	17,800	18,100	19,750	17,050	17,250	16,300	14,700	13,500	17,050
Goods-producing	4,200	6,200	6,600	5,550	5,050	5,500	7,000	4,500	4,400	3,550	2,550	1,300	4,700
Service-producing	11,600	11,850	11,950	12,200	12,750	12,600	12,750	12,550	12,850	12,750	12,150	12,200	12,350
Seafood Processing	4,050	6,050	6,450	5,400	4,900	5,300	6,750	4,250	4,100	3,350	2,400	1,150	4,500
Government	5,400	5,500	5,600	5,600	5,900	5,200	5,250	5,150	5,450	5,900	5,650	5,700	5,550
Federal	400	400	400	400	450	450	450	450	450	400	400	400	400
State	500	500	500	500	500	550	550	550	500	500	450	450	500
Local	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,700	4,950	4,200	4,250	4,150	4,500	5,000	4,800	4,850	4,600

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment **15** Southeast 1998

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	30,850	31,650	32,750	33,950	36,400	37,600	39,850	40,750	39,100	35,650	34,000	33,000	35,450
Goods-producing	2,950	3,550	4,100	4,700	4,900	5,250	7,050	7,600	6,450	5,300	4,650	3,900	5,050
Service-producing	27,900	28,100	28,650	29,250	31,500	32,350	32,800	33,150	32,650	30,350	29,350	29,100	30,450
Mining	300	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Construction	1,200	1,250	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,850	1,750	1,600	1,350	1,600
Manufacturing	1,450	1,950	2,350	2,750	2,750	3,050	4,800	5,350	4,250	3,200	2,700	2,200	3,050
Durable Goods	600	850	1,100	1,450	1,400	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,550	1,450	1,150	1,300
Lumber/Wood Products	400	650	950	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,250	1,000	1,100
Nondurable Goods	850	1,100	1,250	1,300	1,350	1,500	3,250	3,800	2,700	1,650	1,250	1,050	1,750
Seafood Processing	450	700	850	950	1,000	1,100	2,900	3,450	2,350	1,300	900	700	1,400
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,350	2,300	2,450	2,550	3,200	3,350	3,400	3,600	3,400	2,850	2,600	2,500	2,900
Trade	5,600	5,550	5,700	6,000	6,850	7,400	7,600	7,600	7,050	6,350	6,150	6,150	6,500
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	600	600	650	700	700	600	600	600	600	600
Retail Trade	5,050	5,000	5,150	5,400	6,250	6,750	6,900	6,900	6,450	5,750	5,550	5,550	5,900
Food Stores	1,300	1,250	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,450	1,450	1,450	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,700	1,700	1,650	1,550	1,500	1,500	1,500
Services & Misc.	6,500	6,550	6,750	7,000	7,700	8,300	8,350	8,350	8,100	7,150	6,750	6,650	7,350
Health Services	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,650
Government	12,100	12,350	12,350	12,400	12,400	11,900	11,750	11,900	12,450	12,450	12,350	12,300	12,250
Federal	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,750	1,900	1,950	2,000	1,950	1,900	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,800
State	5,250	5,350	5,350	5,450	5,300	5,350	5,200	5,250	5,350	5,300	5,300	5,250	5,300
Local	5,150	5,300	5,300	5,200	5,200	4,600	4,550	4,700	5,200	5,350	5,350	5,350	5,100

Gulf Coast 1998 **17**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	23,850	24,450	24,750	25,450	27,700	30,550	32,950	33,100	30,250	27,000	25,100	24,050	27,450
Goods-producing	5,100	5,400	5,450	5,500	6,250	7,750	10,100	10,050	8,050	6,500	5,150	4,350	6,650
Service-producing	18,750	19,050	19,300	19,950	21,450	22,800	22,850	23,050	22,200	20,500	19,950	19,700	20,800
Mining	1,050	1,100	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,200
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,050	1,050	1,000	1,150	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,200
Construction	800	750	800	1,000	1,300	1,450	1,550	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,200	1,000	1,200
Manufacturing	3,250	3,550	3,650	3,350	3,800	5,100	7,300	7,150	5,050	3,650	2,650	2,050	4,200
Seafood Processing	2,300	2,600	2,700	2,350	2,800	4,050	6,300	6,200	4,100	2,650	1,650	1,050	3,250
Transportation/Comm/Util	2,200	2,300	2,250	2,350	2,500	2,650	2,750	2,900	2,650	2,500	2,350	2,250	2,450
Trade	4,450	4,450	4,600	4,900	5,500	6,050	6,500	6,450	5,950	5,000	4,900	4,850	5,300
Wholesale Trade	500	500	550	550	600	650	850	850	750	550	500	500	600
Retail Trade	3,950	3,950	4,050	4,350	4,900	5,400	5,650	5,600	5,200	4,450	4,400	4,350	4,700
Eating/Drinking Places	1,200	1,250	1,300	1,450	1,700	1,900	2,150	2,100	1,950	1,350	1,300	1,250	1,600
Finance/Ins/Real Estate	700	700	700	750	750	800	800	800	750	700	700	700	750
Services & Misc.	4,850	4,900	5,000	5,150	5,750	6,350	6,450	6,400	6,000	5,450	5,200	5,200	5,550
Health Services	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050
Government	6,550	6,700	6,750	6,800	6,950	6,950	6,350	6,500	6,850	6,850	6,800	6,700	6,750
Federal	650	650	650	700	750	800	800	800	750	700	650	600	700
State	1,500	1,550	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,650	1,600	1,600	1,550	1,600
Local	4,400	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,550	4,450	3,850	4,000	4,450	4,550	4,550	4,550	4,400

Southwest 1998 **19**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Total Wage & Salary	16,450	19,550	19,250	17,800	17,300	17,700	19,900	17,200	17,300	16,400	15,100	13,650	17,300
Goods-producing	4,200	7,050	6,700	5,300	4,350	4,900	7,000	4,400	4,200	3,550	2,800	1,400	4,650
Service-producing	12,250	12,500	12,550	12,500	12,950	12,800	12,900	12,800	13,100	12,850	12,300	12,250	12,650
Seafood Processing	4,050	6,900	6,550	5,150	4,150	4,650	6,750	4,150	3,950	3,350	2,550	1,250	4,450
Government	5,550	5,800	5,800	5,850	6,000	5,300	5,350	5,100	5,700	5,900	5,700	5,700	5,650
Federal	400	400	400	350	350	400	400	350	350	350	350	350	350
State	450	500	500	500	500	550	550	500	500	500	450	500	500
Local	4,700	4,900	4,900	5,000	5,150	4,350	4,400	4,250	4,850	5,050	4,900	4,850	4,800

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

20 Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries – 1998

Average Weekly Earnings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$1,326.19	\$1,355.54	\$1,384.01	\$1,362.28	\$1,228.92	\$1,210.95	\$1,272.82	\$1,433.45	\$1,387.04	\$1,522.40	\$1,420.02	\$1,265.66	\$1,347.68
Construction	1,027.96	1,079.32	1,168.60	1,157.72	1,134.34	1,108.54	1,168.65	1,230.41	1,103.65	1,122.30	1,024.81	1,038.77	1,120.61
Manufacturing	354.27	663.66	605.36	496.25	485.93	538.99	548.58	600.56	621.00	582.36	491.43	521.03	553.39
Seafood Processing	221.00	623.54	546.45	378.56	337.04	437.95	512.93	537.54	557.15	471.42	319.14	331.89	470.77
Trans/Comm/Utilities	670.35	661.88	652.91	645.66	640.06	704.09	702.93	678.00	690.82	680.24	679.96	623.31	670.25
Trade	405.81	424.18	416.99	417.32	415.00	424.15	429.09	436.04	429.94	431.14	432.39	414.96	423.02
Wholesale	638.40	668.54	629.05	626.62	627.86	639.68	671.40	671.83	630.37	637.61	647.16	615.65	642.60
Retail	361.06	375.84	375.33	377.46	376.16	384.58	383.91	392.49	394.08	394.80	393.29	379.74	383.29
Finance/Insur/R.E.	527.46	542.90	549.52	541.80	541.97	527.38	526.24	543.16	530.11	553.58	575.09	557.72	542.37

Average Weekly Hours

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	49.1	49.4	50.2	49.7	46.2	45.8	47.6	51.6	48.6	53.7	48.3	46.6	48.9
Construction	41.4	44.0	46.8	45.1	43.0	42.9	44.2	46.1	41.6	43.0	39.1	40.8	43.2
Manufacturing	29.4	66.7	59.7	43.8	39.7	45.6	51.9	55.3	57.5	51.4	37.6	36.9	49.9
Seafood Processing	26.0	73.1	65.6	44.8	37.7	46.1	54.8	57.8	61.7	54.5	33.7	34.5	52.6
Trans/Comm/Utilities	35.3	35.3	34.4	34.0	34.1	36.2	35.7	33.9	35.3	35.1	35.6	32.6	34.8
Trade	32.7	33.4	33.2	33.2	33.2	34.4	34.3	34.8	33.8	33.5	34.1	32.7	33.6
Wholesale	38.0	38.4	37.6	37.5	37.8	39.1	38.3	38.5	37.3	37.2	37.3	36.3	37.8
Retail	31.7	32.4	32.3	32.4	32.4	33.5	33.5	34.1	33.2	32.9	33.5	32.1	32.9
Finance/Insur/R.E.	35.4	35.6	36.2	36.0	35.4	35.3	35.2	36.7	35.2	35.9	36.7	36.5	35.8

Average Hourly Earnings

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Average
Mining	\$27.01	\$27.44	\$27.57	\$27.41	\$26.60	\$26.44	\$26.74	\$27.78	\$28.54	\$28.35	\$29.40	\$27.16	\$27.56
Construction	24.83	24.53	24.97	25.67	26.38	25.84	26.44	26.69	26.53	26.10	26.21	25.46	25.94
Manufacturing	12.05	9.95	10.14	11.33	12.24	11.82	10.57	10.86	10.80	11.33	13.07	14.12	11.09
Seafood Processing	8.50	8.53	8.33	8.45	8.94	9.50	9.36	9.30	9.03	8.65	9.47	9.62	8.95
Trans/Comm/Utilities	18.99	18.75	18.98	18.99	18.77	19.45	19.69	20.00	19.57	19.38	19.10	19.12	19.26
Trade	12.41	12.70	12.56	12.57	12.50	12.33	12.51	12.53	12.72	12.87	12.68	12.69	12.59
Wholesale	16.80	17.41	16.73	16.71	16.61	16.36	17.53	17.45	16.90	17.14	17.35	16.96	17.00
Retail	11.39	11.60	11.62	11.65	11.61	11.48	11.46	11.51	11.87	12.00	11.74	11.83	11.65
Finance/Insur/R.E.	14.90	15.25	15.18	15.05	15.31	14.94	14.95	14.80	15.06	15.42	15.67	15.28	15.15

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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 1998.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Annual Average Labor Force – 1996-1998

By Region and Census Area

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	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
Alaska Statewide	312,962	315,291	316,898	24,451	24,872	18,351	7.8	7.9	5.8	288,511	290,419	298,547
Anch/Mat-Su Region	163,701	166,602	170,526	10,406	10,961	7,783	6.4	6.6	4.6	153,295	155,641	162,743
Municipality of Anchorage	136,599	138,164	141,557	7,478	7,981	5,779	5.5	5.8	4.1	129,121	130,183	135,778
Mat-Su Borough	27,102	28,439	28,969	2,928	2,981	2,004	10.8	10.5	6.9	24,174	25,458	26,965
Gulf Coast Region	35,446	35,181	34,124	4,460	4,359	3,045	12.6	12.4	8.9	30,986	30,822	31,079
Kenai Peninsula Borough	22,513	22,381	21,628	3,147	3,031	2,116	14.0	13.5	9.8	19,366	19,350	19,512
Kodiak Island Borough	7,537	7,414	7,245	717	729	504	9.5	9.8	7.0	6,820	6,685	6,741
Valdez-Cordova	5,397	5,387	5,253	597	600	426	11.1	11.1	8.1	4,800	4,787	4,827
Interior Region	49,098	49,495	48,989	4,140	4,098	3,027	8.4	8.3	6.2	44,958	45,397	45,962
Denali Borough	1,225	1,250	1,217	111	143	96	9.1	11.4	7.9	1,114	1,107	1,121
Fairbanks North Star Borough	43,230	43,688	43,313	3,306	3,312	2,434	7.6	7.6	5.6	39,924	40,376	40,879
Southeast Fairbanks	2,539	2,484	2,435	347	315	239	13.7	12.7	9.8	2,192	2,169	2,196
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,105	2,075	2,025	376	329	257	17.9	15.9	12.7	1,729	1,746	1,768
Northern Region	9,011	8,826	8,961	1,022	929	713	11.3	10.5	8.0	7,989	7,897	8,248
Nome	3,450	3,346	3,390	444	394	307	12.9	11.8	9.1	3,006	2,952	3,083
North Slope Borough	3,273	3,269	3,399	159	180	172	4.9	5.5	5.1	3,114	3,089	3,227
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,289	2,211	2,172	420	355	234	18.3	16.1	10.8	1,869	1,856	1,938
Southeast Region	40,869	40,632	39,584	3,246	3,334	2,675	7.9	8.2	6.8	37,623	37,298	36,909
Haines Borough	1,196	1,209	1,170	140	144	116	11.7	11.9	9.9	1,056	1,065	1,054
Juneau Borough	17,260	17,392	17,002	1,064	1,100	880	6.2	6.3	5.2	16,196	16,292	16,122
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,012	7,681	7,416	697	727	535	8.7	9.5	7.2	7,315	6,954	6,881
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	3,471	3,476	3,357	465	482	394	13.4	13.9	11.7	3,006	2,994	2,963
Sitka Borough	4,571	4,565	4,445	309	300	225	6.8	6.6	5.1	4,262	4,265	4,220
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,285	2,276	2,254	141	173	173	6.2	7.6	7.7	2,144	2,103	2,081
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,750	3,702	3,600	409	378	311	10.9	10.2	8.6	3,341	3,324	3,289
Yakutat Borough	324	332	339	20	31	41	6.2	9.3	12.1	304	301	298
Southwest Region	14,839	14,555	14,713	1,178	1,190	1,108	7.9	8.2	7.5	13,661	13,365	13,605
Aleutians East Borough	1,624	1,575	1,588	72	62	47	4.4	3.9	3.0	1,552	1,513	1,541
Aleutians West	2,348	2,291	2,316	96	141	128	4.1	6.2	5.5	2,252	2,150	2,188
Bethel	6,002	5,863	5,893	573	525	459	9.5	9.0	7.8	5,429	5,338	5,434
Bristol Bay Borough	591	593	595	43	49	41	7.3	8.3	6.9	548	544	554
Dillingham	1,723	1,672	1,691	136	123	114	7.9	7.4	6.7	1,587	1,549	1,577
Lake & Peninsula Borough	594	584	596	47	42	44	7.9	7.2	7.4	547	542	552
Wade Hampton	1,955	1,976	2,035	210	247	275	10.7	12.5	13.5	1,745	1,729	1,760

1998 Benchmark. Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force. Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

January Stronger Than a Year Ago

But layoffs hit oil industry, commuter airlines

Alaska Employment Scene

by
Brigitta Windisch-Cole
Labor Economist

Alaska's January economic balance sheet netted a gain of 4,100 jobs over last year's level. This was in spite of the general downturn in employment in natural resource industries. Services made the heftiest contributions to job growth, followed by transportation and trade. More than half of the new jobs originated in service-providing industries such as business, health care, hotels, and social and engineering services.

An upbeat construction season, expansion of the visitor industry infrastructure and contract alliances between government and businesses helped spur employment growth in the services sector. The privatization of health care services and a broader delivery of specialty health care services also added employment to that sector. However, for the first time in over a year, oil and gas industry employment dipped below its year-ago level. (See Exhibit 2.)

Alaska's labor market usually contracts in January, but this year some of the month's job losses came from the oil industry. Layoffs have started to affect employment numbers; oil and gas employment suffered a 900-job loss in just one month, and more layoffs will follow. Service and catering companies under contract with the oil industry also had to lay off personnel. In the seafood processing sector, however, seasonal hiring started. Winter harvests got underway in Western Alaska and the Gulf region, pushing up seafood employment by 4,000 in January. Fishers were targeting crab, cod, pollock,

and other ground fish. Other industries, including government, more closely followed Alaska's typical off-season employment trend. In all, job counts in January dropped off 6,300 from December's tally.

Meanwhile, Alaska's unemployment rate inched up 1.5 percentage points from December. January's unemployment rate was 7.4%, a continuation of the string of record-low monthly rates. The previous record low for January, set in 1998, was 7.8%. Nearly 24,200 Alaskans were unemployed in January 1998, about 1,300 more than in January 1999. However, as the oil and gas industry layoffs continue and the number of unemployed workers rises, it is unlikely that Alaska will continue to post record low unemployment rates in future months.

Oil industry layoffs cast a shadow on employment

The first wave of the oil industry layoffs, amounting to 900 lost jobs, hit the employment numbers in January. The bulk of the cutbacks befell oil service companies, particularly oil well drilling contractors. Nearly half of the cutbacks affected workers employed by these specialty contractors, after British Petroleum (BP) and Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) cancelled or scaled back their exploration programs. The big producers announced that by April, only six drilling rigs

would be working in the North Slope fields compared to 18 in 1998.

A second wave will soon hit and roll into Anchorage when the BP layoffs take effect. The company will shed 600 jobs that will affect more than 200 BP staff and nearly 400 contract workers. Many of the laid off BP workers will remain on payroll for a while. A severance package, based on company seniority, will make the subtraction of jobs from the payroll roster gradual. BP also stopped construction work until next year on oil-producing equipment destined for the Northstar field. Development of this field has been stalled.

In comparison, the layoffs at ARCO Alaska were smaller. Job cuts affected 80 of its workers. Development work will continue on ARCO's 365-million-barrel Alpine field, but the company has curtailed development on other properties. The slump in oil prices has deferred other investments as well. Phillips Petroleum, for example, shelved its Tyonek Deep oil and gas project in Cook Inlet. So far, the company has no plans for layoffs in Alaska, although it is cutting 1,400 jobs worldwide.

The Alaska Support Industry Alliance, an oil contractor group, projects that job losses in oil and gas employment alone could exceed 2,000 by spring. Job losses among service providers that contract with the oil industry will also rise. All this portends an extremely difficult 1999 for the oil industry.

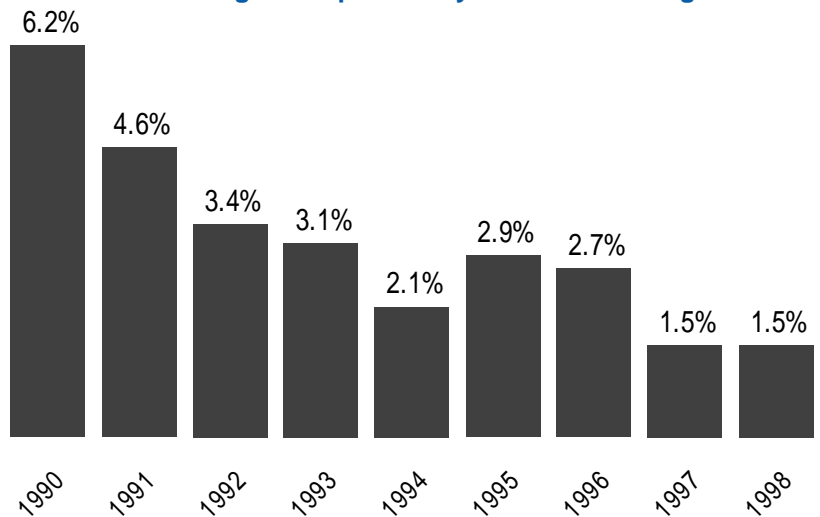
Slow business and competition cause commuter airline layoffs

Although air transportation industries have become one of Alaska's top notch contributors to job growth, not all airlines share in the success. Competition among bush, commuter, and other

non-scheduled airlines has steadily increased since 1993. During an air transportation expansion between 1993 and 1998, employment growth in these firms averaged 5.8% per year. This last year, however, events like the disastrous Bristol Bay fishing season and the downturn in timber industries hit economies hard in Western and Southeast Alaska and slowed commuter airline traffic. Yute Air Inc., a commuter airline operating in Western Alaska, began downsizing during the 1998 summer season. In the fall, Southcentral Air, a Kenai Peninsula commuter, started to shut down its passenger transportation division. This January, these two companies employed about 100 fewer workers than a year ago. Yute Air is currently fending off bankruptcy. In addition, reduced business has caused the closure of AirOne, a Taquan Air Service Inc. affiliate, and

(Continued on page 30)

Price Stability Prevails 1 Consumer Price Index-Urban Anchorage Change from previous year annual average



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Alaska

	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	1/99	12/98	1/98	12/98	1/98
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	258,800	265,100	254,700	-6,300	4,100
Goods-producing	31,300	30,200	31,500	1,100	-200
Service-producing	227,500	234,900	223,200	-7,400	4,300
Mining	9,300	10,300	10,000	-1,000	-700
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,000	8,900	8,500	-900	-500
Construction	10,500	11,700	10,200	-1,200	300
Manufacturing	11,500	8,200	11,300	3,300	200
Durable Goods	1,700	2,400	1,700	-700	0
Lumber & Wood Products	800	1,400	800	-600	0
Nondurable Goods	9,800	5,800	9,600	4,000	200
Seafood Processing	7,100	3,100	6,900	4,000	200
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	23,800	24,400	23,100	-600	700
Trucking & Warehousing	2,800	2,900	2,800	-100	0
Water Transportation	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
Air Transportation	8,800	9,000	8,400	-200	400
Communications	4,300	4,400	4,200	-100	100
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
Trade	53,100	56,500	52,400	-3,400	700
Wholesale Trade	8,600	8,700	8,600	-100	0
Retail Trade	44,500	47,800	43,800	-3,300	700
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	8,900	10,000	8,700	-1,100	200
Food Stores	6,800	7,300	6,900	-500	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	14,300	15,400	14,000	-1,100	300
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	12,200	12,500	12,000	-300	200
Services & Misc.	65,300	67,100	62,900	-1,800	2,400
Hotels & Lodging Places	5,100	5,500	4,800	-400	300
Business Services	8,500	9,100	8,000	-600	500
Health Services	15,100	15,100	14,800	0	300
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Social Services	7,400	7,500	7,300	-100	100
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	7,500	7,800	7,300	-300	200
Government	73,100	74,400	72,800	-1,300	300
Federal	16,400	16,600	16,800	-200	-400
State	21,200	21,900	20,700	-700	500
Local	35,500	35,900	35,300	-400	200

Municipality of Anchorage

	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	1/99	12/98	1/98	12/98	1/98
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	125,600	130,200	122,000	-4,600	3,600
Goods-producing	10,000	10,700	9,900	-700	100
Service-producing	115,600	119,500	112,100	-3,900	3,500
Mining	2,500	2,600	2,600	-100	-100
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,400	2,500	2,500	-100	-100
Construction	5,700	6,200	5,500	-500	200
Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	1,800	-100	0
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	12,900	13,200	12,400	-300	500
Air Transportation	5,800	5,900	5,500	-100	300
Communications	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Trade	30,300	32,300	29,800	-2,000	500
Wholesale Trade	6,300	6,400	6,300	-100	0
Retail Trade	24,000	25,900	23,500	-1,900	500
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	4,500	5,100	4,400	-600	100
Food Stores	2,900	3,000	2,900	-100	0
Eating & Drinking Places	8,300	9,000	8,100	-700	200
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,400	7,500	7,200	-100	200
Services & Misc.	36,100	37,200	34,300	-1,100	1,800
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,500	2,600	2,300	-100	200
Business Services	5,900	6,500	5,700	-600	200
Health Services	8,100	8,100	7,600	0	500
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Social Services	3,500	3,600	3,300	-100	200
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	5,400	5,600	5,100	-200	300
Government	28,900	29,300	28,400	-400	500
Federal	10,000	10,000	9,900	0	100
State	8,500	8,800	8,100	-300	400
Local	10,400	10,500	10,400	-100	0

Notes to Exhibits 2, 3 & 4—Nonagricultural excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers as well as agricultural workers. Government category includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Exhibits 2 & 3—Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Exhibit 4—Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

3 Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	preliminary 1/99	revised 12/98	1/98	preliminary 1/99	revised 12/98	1/98	preliminary 1/99	revised 12/98	1/98
Mining	\$1,195.76	\$1,265.66	\$1,326.19	46.6	46.6	49.1	\$25.66	\$27.16	\$27.01
Construction	1,058.82	1,038.77	1,027.96	42.0	40.8	41.4	25.21	25.46	24.83
Manufacturing	322.75	521.03	354.27	25.0	36.9	29.4	12.91	14.12	12.05
Seafood Processing	202.10	331.89	221.00	20.9	34.5	26.0	9.67	9.62	8.50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	621.37	623.31	670.35	31.8	32.6	35.3	19.54	19.12	18.99
Trade	417.06	414.96	405.81	33.1	32.7	32.7	12.60	12.69	12.41
Wholesale Trade	624.22	615.65	638.40	37.2	36.3	38.0	16.78	16.96	16.80
Retail Trade	377.26	379.74	361.06	32.3	32.1	31.7	11.68	11.83	11.39
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	543.00	557.72	512.28	36.2	36.5	35.6	15.00	15.28	14.39

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

Benchmark: March 1998

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

4 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Fairbanks

	preliminary		revised	Changes from:		
	1/99	12/98		1/98	12/98	1/98
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,650	32,050	30,450	-1,400	200	
Goods-producing	2,500	2,850	2,550	-350	-50	
Service-producing	28,150	29,200	27,900	-1,050	250	
Mining	750	850	900	-100	-150	
Construction	1,250	1,450	1,150	-200	100	
Manufacturing	500	550	500	-50	0	
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,700	2,800	2,650	-100	50	
Trucking & Warehousing	550	550	550	0	0	
Air Transportation	700	700	650	0	50	
Communications	450	450	450	0	0	
Trade	6,600	7,100	6,550	-500	50	
Wholesale Trade	850	850	800	0	50	
Retail Trade	5,750	6,250	5,750	-500	0	
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,150	1,350	1,200	-200	-50	
Food Stores	700	800	750	-100	-50	
Eating & Drinking Places	1,900	2,100	1,850	-200	50	
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,100	1,100	1,050	0	50	
Services & Misc.	7,550	7,550	7,400	0	150	
Hotels & Lodging Places	650	700	600	-50	50	
Health Services	1,850	1,850	1,850	0	0	
Government	10,200	10,650	10,250	-450	-50	
Federal	3,000	3,050	3,250	-50	-250	
State	4,150	4,550	4,150	-400	0	
Local	3,050	3,050	2,850	0	200	

Southeast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,000	33,000	30,850	-2,000	150
Goods-producing	2,900	3,900	2,950	-1,000	-50
Service-producing	28,100	29,100	27,900	-1,000	200
Mining	350	350	300	0	50
Construction	1,150	1,350	1,200	-200	-50
Manufacturing	1,400	2,200	1,450	-800	-50
Durable Goods	550	1,150	600	-600	-50
Lumber & Wood Products	400	1,000	400	-600	0
Nondurable Goods	850	1,050	850	-200	0
Seafood Processing	500	700	450	-200	50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,400	2,500	2,350	-100	50
Trade	5,650	6,150	5,600	-500	50
Wholesale Trade	550	600	550	-50	0
Retail Trade	5,100	5,550	5,050	-450	50
Food Stores	1,250	1,350	1,300	-100	-50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,400	1,500	1,350	-100	50
Services & Misc.	6,550	6,650	6,500	-100	50
Health Services	1,600	1,650	1,650	-50	-50
Government	12,100	12,300	12,100	-200	0
Federal	1,650	1,700	1,700	-50	-50
State	5,200	5,250	5,250	-50	-50
Local	5,250	5,350	5,150	-100	100

Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,600	15,750	15,650	-1,150	-1,050
Goods-producing	4,750	5,500	5,550	-750	-800
Service-producing	9,850	10,250	10,100	-400	-250
Mining	4,350	5,050	4,850	-700	-500
Oil & Gas Extraction	3,950	4,600	4,400	-650	-450
Government	4,350	4,450	4,550	-100	-200
Federal	150	150	150	0	0
State	300	300	300	0	0
Local	3,900	4,000	4,100	-100	-200

Interior Region

	preliminary		revised	Changes from:		
	1/99	12/98		1/98	12/98	1/98
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,100	36,350	34,900	-1,250	200	
Goods-producing	2,800	3,050	2,850	-250	-50	
Service-producing	32,300	33,300	32,050	-1,000	250	
Mining	900	1,000	1,150	-100	-250	
Construction	1,350	1,500	1,200	-150	150	
Manufacturing	550	550	500	0	50	
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,150	3,200	3,050	-50	100	
Trade	7,200	7,650	7,150	-450	50	
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,150	1,150	1,100	0	50	
Services & Misc.	8,350	8,400	8,300	-50	50	
Hotels & Lodging Places	750	800	700	-50	50	
Government	12,450	12,900	12,450	-450	0	
Federal	3,550	3,600	3,850	-50	-300	
State	4,350	4,750	4,350	-400	0	
Local	4,550	4,550	4,250	0	300	

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	137,100	142,000	132,800	-4,900	4,300
Goods-producing	11,050	11,900	10,700	-850	350
Service-producing	126,050	130,100	122,100	-4,050	3,950
Mining	2,500	2,650	2,600	-150	-100
Construction	6,600	7,250	6,200	-650	400
Manufacturing	1,950	2,000	1,900	-50	50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	13,850	14,250	13,350	-400	500
Trade	33,000	35,100	32,450	-2,100	550
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,850	8,000	7,700	-150	150
Services & Misc.	39,300	40,400	37,100	-1,100	2,200
Government	32,050	32,350	31,500	-300	550
Federal	10,150	10,150	10,050	0	100
State	9,350	9,550	8,850	-200	500
Local	12,550	12,650	12,600	-100	-50

Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	16,450	13,650	16,450	2,800	0
Goods-producing	4,350	1,400	4,200	2,950	150
Service-producing	12,100	12,250	12,250	-150	-150
Seafood Processing	4,200	1,250	4,050	2,950	150
Government	5,500	5,700	5,550	-200	-50
Federal	350	350	400	0	-50
State	450	500	450	-50	0
Local	4,700	4,850	4,700	-150	0

Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	24,400	24,050	23,850	350	550
Goods-producing	5,300	4,350	5,100	950	200
Service-producing	19,100	19,700	18,750	-600	350
Mining	1,200	1,300	1,050	-100	150
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,200	1,300	1,050	-100	150
Construction	850	1,000	800	-150	50
Manufacturing	3,250	2,050	3,250	1,200	0
Seafood Processing	2,350	1,050	2,300	1,300	50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,200	2,250	2,200	-50	0
Trade	4,600	4,850	4,450	-250	150
Wholesale Trade	500	500	500	0	0
Retail Trade	4,100	4,350	3,950	-250	150
Eating & Drinking Places	1,250	1,250	1,200	0	50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	700	700	700	0	0
Services & Misc.	5,050	5,200	4,850	-150	200
Health Services	1,050	1,100	1,000	-50	50
Government	6,550	6,700	6,550	-150	0
Federal	600	600	650	0	-50
State	1,500	1,550	1,500	-50	0
Local	4,450	4,550	4,400	-100	50

5 Unemployment Rates by Region and Census Area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	preliminary 1/99	revised 12/98	1/98
United States	4.8	4.0	5.2
Alaska Statewide	7.4	5.9	7.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.5	4.2	5.9
Municipality of Anchorage	4.8	3.6	5.2
Mat-Su Borough	9.2	7.0	9.6
Gulf Coast Region	11.7	10.8	13.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	13.3	10.7	14.6
Kodiak Island Borough	6.2	11.9	9.3
Valdez-Cordova	12.5	9.5	13.2
Interior Region	8.4	6.6	8.3
Denali Borough	11.3	8.8	14.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	7.6	6.0	7.3
Southeast Fairbanks	14.5	10.9	14.9
Yukon-Koyukuk	16.3	12.2	16.6
Northern Region	9.8	7.6	7.4
Nome	11.6	8.9	8.7
North Slope Borough	6.3	5.0	4.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	12.6	9.7	10.0
Southeast Region	9.7	7.0	10.9
Haines Borough	16.3	12.1	17.5
Juneau Borough	6.3	5.1	6.9
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	10.8	7.6	11.8
Prince/Wales-Outer Ketchikan	19.0	12.2	19.9
Sitka Borough	6.4	5.6	7.5
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	10.9	6.7	13.3
Wrangell-Petersburg	14.3	9.6	17.5
Yakutat Borough	11.9	9.4	15.9
Southwest Region	9.2	9.3	8.4
Aleutians East Borough	6.4	6.8	4.8
Aleutians West	9.8	11.3	6.9
Bethel	8.0	8.6	7.7
Bristol Bay Borough	10.9	8.6	12.8
Dillingham	7.8	5.9	7.4
Lake & Peninsula Borough	8.3	6.6	9.2
Wade Hampton	14.7	14.6	14.0
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	4.3	4.3	4.6
Alaska Statewide	5.9	5.5	6.3

(Continued from page 27)

Haines Airways announced that it, too, would scale back operations. Yute Air's layoff in late January and the recent cutbacks at the two Southeast airlines will cost another 100 jobs in the commuter airline industry. Moreover, reduced state spending on travel will further trim business for intrastate airlines.

The modest change in the Consumer Price Index for Anchorage is good news

One of the most popular statistics in the state is the Anchorage Consumer Price Index for urban consumers (CPI-U.) It is the most widely used measure of inflation. It is used by employers, employees, unions, property owners, business contractors, and child support payees as a guideline for adjusting contracts, pay rates and other forms of payments. The CPI-U measures price changes in consumer expenditures such as housing, transportation, food and beverage, medical care, apparel, recreation and other goods and services.

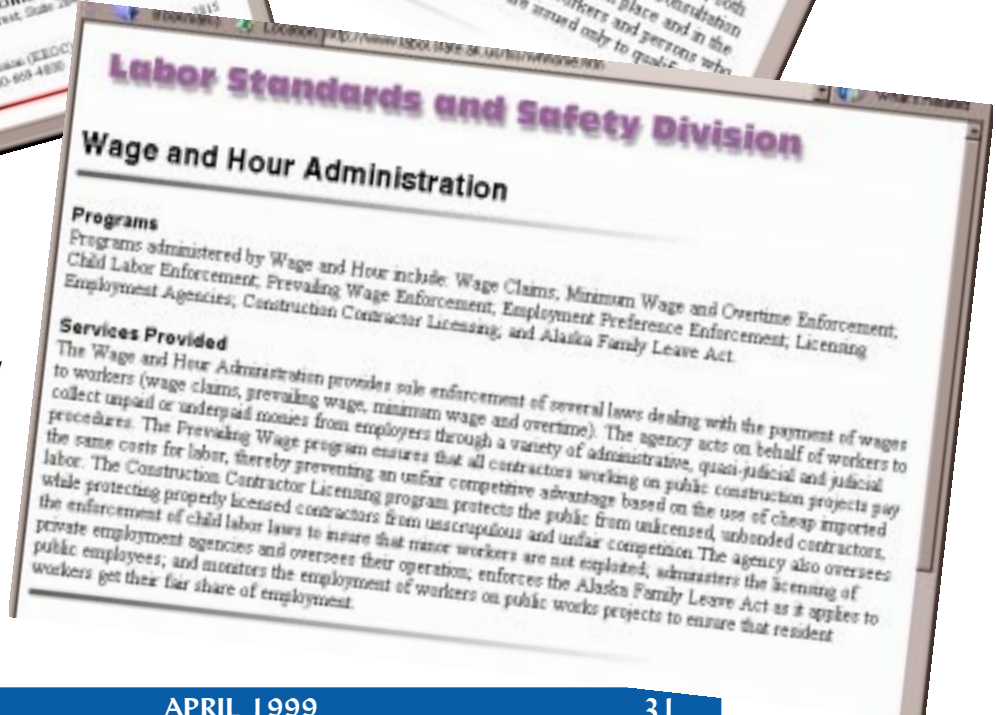
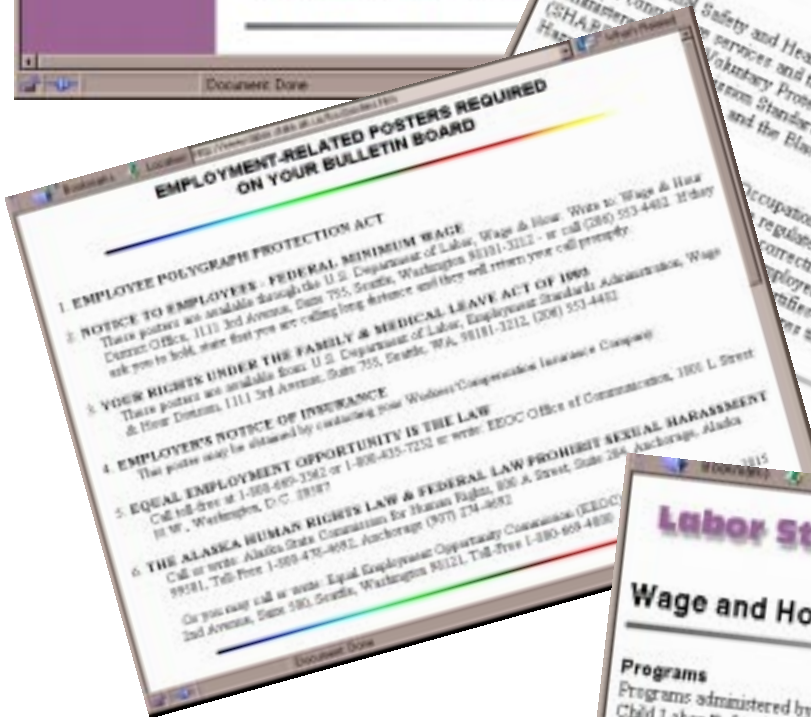
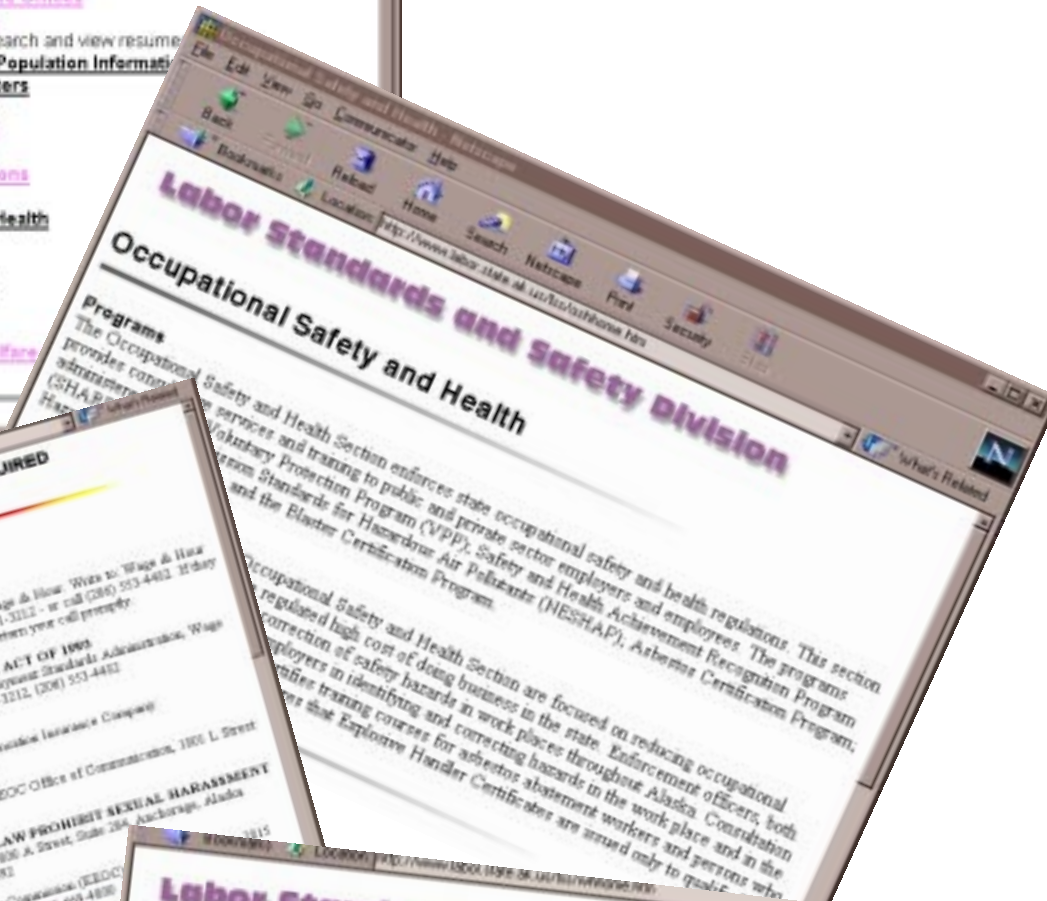
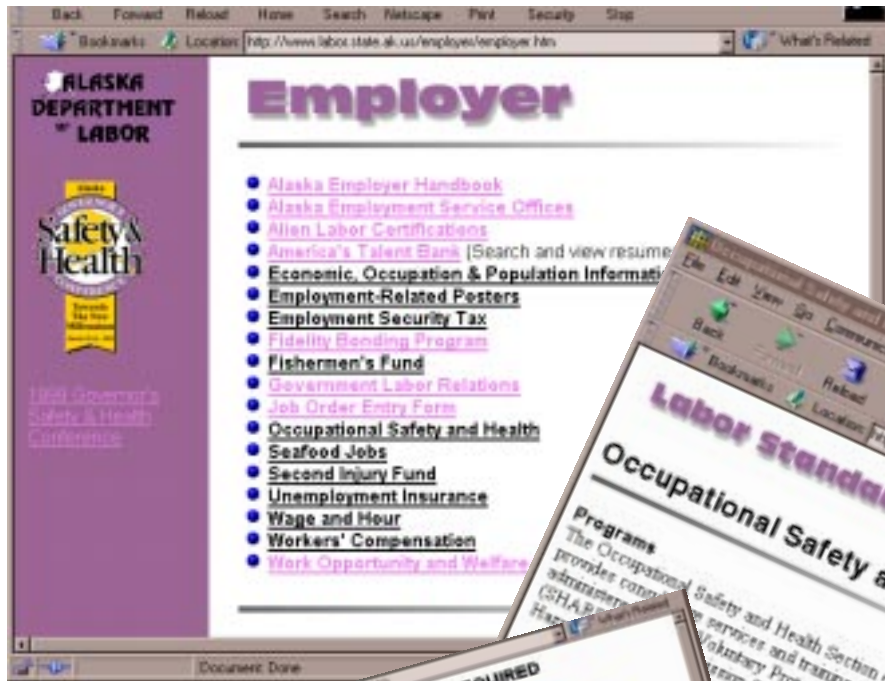
The Bureau of Labor Statistics conducts surveys to determine the price index, and it recently released the index for the second half of 1998. Overall, prices in Anchorage rose just 0.2% since June 1998. Averaging the two index numbers for 1998 showed that prices in Anchorage inched up a moderate 1.5%, the same increase as last year. (See Exhibit 1.) Nationally, the comparable price index rose by 1.6%. Because housing costs are the largest expenditures for a consumer, changes in these costs significantly influence the magnitude of the overall change. During 1998, the average cost index for housing in Anchorage rose by a moderate 1.3%.

1998 Benchmark

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Employer Resource Page



The Department of Labor Employer page at <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/employer/employer.htm>

provides access to information from the Labor Standards and Safety Division, including links to websites on Occupational Safety and Health issues, required posters for employer bulletin boards, Wage and Hour Administration programs and services, and other LS and S division topics.