

ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS

July 2003

Seasonality

Alaska Department of Labor
and Workforce Development

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor of Alaska

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

**July 2003
Volume 23
Number 7**

<http://almis.labor.state.ak.us>

ISSN 0160-3345

**Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of Alaska
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner of Labor
and Workforce Development**

Alaska Economic Trends is a monthly publication dealing with a variety of economic-related issues in the state.

Joanne Erskine, Editor

Cover design by Sam Dapcevich

Alaska Economic Trends is funded by the Employment Security Division and published by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, P.O. Box 21149, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1149.

Email *Trends* authors at: trends@labor.state.ak.us

July *Trends* authors are staff with the Research and Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Printed and distributed by Assets, Inc., a vocational training and employment program, at a cost of \$1.09 per copy.

Subscriptions:

**trends@labor.state.ak.us
(907) 465-4500**

To contact us for more information, to subscribe, or for mailing list changes or back copies, email trends@labor.state.ak.us

Material in this publication is public information and, with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission.

Cover photo courtesy of Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development

Trends is available on the Internet. See URL above.

Contents:

Seasonality	3
The ups and downs of the Alaska labor market	
Self-Employment	9
Nearly 23,000 Alaskans work for themselves	
Census Data on Race	12
Detailed information on race released by Census Bureau in Summary File 4	
Employment Scene	14
April shows typical numbers Seasonal employment patterns more marked in Alaska than in U.S.	

The ups and downs of the Alaska labor market

Alaska's economy is highly seasonal, compared to states in more southern latitudes. In the cold of winter, industries such as construction, seafood processing, and tourism shift into lower gear. Yet, to answer questions such as: "What portion of Alaska's economy is seasonal?" and "Which occupations are seasonal?" is no simple task. It is common knowledge that most seafood processing and tourism jobs are seasonal. But in many cases there is no clear distinction between a job that is seasonal and one that is not. Rather, it is a matter of gradations of seasonality.

Seasonal jobs contribute to cyclic periods of high unemployment which can draw heavily on unemployment insurance coffers. Knowing which occupations are seasonal can help in targeting training programs, and in evaluating their effectiveness.

Seasonal occupations

This article introduces a method for classifying occupations by seasonality, and identifies the number of workers in these occupations. Each job is coded as belonging to a single occupation. (See Methodology, page 8.) In this article an occupation is a specific job as described

in the Standard Occupational Classification Manual. Seasonal occupations are those in which an unusually large proportion of the workers work for only part of the year. However, even in a seasonal occupation, some workers may work all of the year.

Defining seasonal occupations

Seasonal occupations have two distinguishing characteristics:

1. considerable variation in the number of employees from one period to the next, (example: from quarter to quarter) and
2. a seasonal pattern to the variation (example: high periods of employment occur in the same quarter each year).

These characteristics can be expressed in terms of a seasonality index. The difference in the number of workers employed from one quarter to the next and the

Seasonal Groups 1999–2002



Seasonal Group	Quarterly Workers		Quarterly Wages		Average	Occupations
	Number	Percent	Total(\$M)	Percent		
Non-Seasonal	48,640	15.4%	\$462	20.2%	\$9,498	156
Minimally Seasonal	35,570	11.3%	\$292	12.8%	\$8,209	116
Moderately Seasonal	141,521	44.8%	\$1,050	46.0%	\$7,419	308
Highly Seasonal	90,303	28.6%	\$478	20.9%	\$5,293	74
Totals	316,033	100.0%	\$2,282	100.0%	\$7,221	654

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

consistency of the low and high quarters from year to year comprise the seasonality index. (See Methodology, page 8.)

Alaska employers classified their workers into nearly 800 occupations on their Quarterly Unemployment Insurance reports to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development during the period 1999 through 2002. Of these, 654 occupational classifications averaged more than 10 workers per quarter. These 654 occupations were used to examine seasonality in the workforce. They were divided into four groups by degree of seasonality. (See Exhibit 1.)

Highly seasonal occupations have a strong seasonal pattern and large fluctuation in number of workers from one quarter to the next. There were 74 occupation classifications in the highly seasonal group. Most of these occupations are associated with the seafood, tourism, or construction industries. The group includes Seafood Processing Workers, as well as some other obvious candidates such as Waiters and Waitresses, Construction Laborers, and Carpenters. Workers in this group have average earnings of \$5,293 per quarter, much lower than the average quarterly earnings of \$7,221 for all workers in the state.

Moderately seasonal occupations have a strong seasonal pattern but less change in number of workers from quarter to quarter. The moderately seasonal group has the largest number of employees and occupations, with 308 occupations and 44.8 percent of all workers. The group includes occupations in the education industry such as Teacher Assistants and Teachers & Instructors. Some Office Clerks, Retail Salespersons, and Food Preparation & Service Workers also appear here. Workers in this group earn an average of \$7,419 per quarter, which is slightly higher than the average quarterly earnings for all workers in the state.

Minimally seasonal occupations vary somewhat in number of workers but show little or no seasonal

pattern. This group contains 116 occupations. Minimally seasonal occupations include Sales and Related Workers, Maintenance and Repair Workers, and Nursing Aides. Workers in this group have average quarterly earnings of \$8,209 per quarter, almost 14 percent higher than the average quarterly earnings for all workers in the state of \$7,221.

Non-seasonal occupations have little variation in the number of workers and little or no seasonal pattern. The non-seasonal group contains 156 occupation classifications. This group includes many office workers, along with Airline Pilots and Roustabouts in the oil and gas industry. Workers in this group have average quarterly earnings of \$9,498, a full one-third higher than the average quarterly earnings for all workers in the state.

Occupations found in multiple industries

The seasonal characteristics of an occupation vary depending on the industry, (using the Standard Industrial Classification system.) Sometimes an occupation will fall in multiple industry classifications, and in a different seasonality group in each. For example, retail sales workers employed in general merchandise stores have highly seasonal jobs, while the jobs of retail sales workers in apparel and accessory stores are minimally seasonal.

A single industry will usually have occupations in more than one seasonal category. In the construction industry, for instance, Laborers typically perform their work outside when weather permits. Theirs is a highly seasonal occupation. Bookkeepers working for a construction company are typically employed year-round and would not exhibit the same seasonal patterns as the Laborers employed by the same company.

Occupation/industry combinations were examined for a closer look at seasonality. More than 3,000 unique occupation/industry combinations were reported in the last four years.

Seasonality of Select Industries 1999—2002 **2**

Occupation/industry combinations that averaged fewer than 10 employees per quarter were omitted from this part of the analysis since results from such small samples can give misleading conclusions. For each occupation/industry combination we constructed measures of variability and seasonal pattern.

Exhibit 2 shows seasonality information for several industries of particular interest in Alaska. Seafood processing and construction are quite seasonal in nature, and employ large numbers of workers. Education services and health and social services each employ almost as many workers as seafood and construction together, but are less seasonal. Oil and gas employs fewer workers than the aforementioned industries, but their jobs tend to be non-seasonal and highly paid. In each of these five industries, we see confirmation of the general trend that the more seasonal occupations have lower quarterly earnings.

Seafood processing and construction are highly seasonal

Seafood processing shows 74 percent of its workers in highly seasonal occupations, and they earn 64 percent of the wages in the industry. (See Exhibit 2.) Few seafood processing workers were employed year-round; in fact, 71 percent of them were nonresidents of Alaska in 2001, (as defined in the publication *Non-Residents Working in Alaska*) and 73 percent were in highly seasonal occupations. It appears likely that most of the highly seasonal jobs in seafood processing are held by nonresidents.

The construction industry, including special trades, building construction, and heavy construction other than building, shows 51 percent of its workers in highly seasonal occupations. These workers earn 46 percent of the wages in the industry.

	Avg. Quarterly Workers		Avg. Quarterly Wages		Occupations
	Number	Percent	Wages (000s)	Percent	
Seafood Processing					
Non-Seasonal	0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	0
Minimally Seasonal	1,325	12.3%	\$8,854	17.4%	31
Moderately Seasonal	1,485	13.8%	\$9,493	18.7%	30
Highly Seasonal	7,968	73.9%	\$32,467	63.9%	15
Totals	10,778	100.0%	\$50,814	100.0%	76
Construction					
Non-Seasonal	472	2.3%	\$4,378	2.6%	12
Minimally Seasonal	3,020	14.8%	\$27,908	16.7%	72
Moderately Seasonal	6,475	31.7%	\$58,831	35.2%	71
Highly Seasonal	10,432	51.1%	\$76,185	45.5%	30
Totals	20,399	100.0%	\$167,302	100.0%	185
Education Services					
Non-Seasonal	2,424	8.5%	\$17,764	8.7%	24
Minimally Seasonal	10,221	35.8%	\$81,290	40.0%	57
Moderately Seasonal	14,453	50.7%	\$100,414	49.4%	48
Highly Seasonal	1,429	5.0%	\$3,710	1.8%	5
Totals	28,527	100.0%	\$203,178	100.0%	134
Health and Social Services					
Non-Seasonal	7,961	27.0%	\$53,100	24.9%	67
Minimally Seasonal	12,092	41.0%	\$80,165	37.6%	111
Moderately Seasonal	9,360	31.8%	\$79,489	37.3%	60
Highly Seasonal	50	0.2%	\$399	0.2%	2
Totals	29,463	100.0%	\$213,153	100.0%	240
Oil and Gas					
Non-Seasonal	3,884	34.6%	\$64,650	32.8%	27
Minimally Seasonal	4,404	39.2%	\$79,494	40.3%	60
Moderately Seasonal	2,937	26.2%	\$52,940	26.9%	32
Highly Seasonal	0	0.0%	\$0	0.0%	0
Totals	11,225	100.0%	\$197,084	100.0%	119

Note: The quarterly worker count and wages is the average of the number of unique employer/worker combinations for calendar years 1999–2002.

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

Education services only moderately seasonal

The education services industry has occupations in all four of the seasonal groupings, but the majority are in the moderately seasonal group. (See Exhibit 2.) In education services some office workers are employed year-round while others are hired for the school session only. Five percent of the employees in this group are in highly seasonal occupations, and these employees earn only two percent of the wages in the industry.

Health and social services is minimally seasonal

Most health and social services industry occupations are minimally seasonal. Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations along with healthcare support and office and administrative occupations make up the bulk of the minimally seasonal employment. During the busy tourist season the healthcare system faces increased demands and staff must be ready for the influx of summer visitors. Very few of the employees in this industry are in highly seasonal occupations.

Oil and gas extraction is mostly non-seasonal

Construction and extraction occupations along with architectural and engineering occupations make up the bulk of the oil and gas extraction industry employment. Most of the occupations in this industry are minimally-seasonal although some do exhibit seasonal characteristics. (See Exhibit 2.) Construction work is generally highly seasonal, but construction workers in the oil and gas extraction industry have year-round jobs, with little variation in the number of workers. The oil and gas industry contains no highly seasonal occupations.

Top ten highly seasonal occupations

Exhibit 3 shows the average number of workers for the years 1999 through 2002, and the maximum and minimum quarterly employment for 2002. In

the highly seasonal group, most of the top ten occupations are unskilled or semi-skilled. This group shows considerable variation between the maximum and minimum employment. For seafood processing, employment in the lowest quarter is only 41 percent of peak employment. For Construction Laborers, minimum employment is only 54 percent of peak employment. A significant number of workers in highly seasonal industries are nonresidents.

The top ten occupations in the moderately seasonal group show a broader mix of skill levels. Counter Attendants and Office Clerks are at one extreme, and General and Operations Managers and Executive Secretaries at the other. The greatest difference between peak and minimum employment in this list is 70 percent for Operating Engineers.

In the minimally seasonal group a broad range of skill levels appears; this group includes Sales and Related workers along with Elementary and Secondary Teachers. In this group there is generally less variation between the peak and minimum quarter's employment. Nursing Aides, Orderlies, & Attendants shows the greatest variation with 70 percent difference between the maximum and minimum.

In the non-seasonal group we see another broad range of skill levels. Customer Service Representatives and Office & Administrative Support Workers are on one end of the scale and Chief Executives and Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers are on the other end. Roustabouts demonstrated the greatest variation between high and low quarterly employment with 74 percent of the peak.

Does seasonal employment imply low wages? A cautionary note

Employment in the highly seasonal and moderately seasonal occupations comprises nearly three quarters of total workers in the average quarter, but only two thirds of average quarterly wages. Even more telling is that the non-seasonal occupations represent 15 percent of average

Top Ten Occupations by Seasonality Group

Alaska



Average
Quarterly
Wages
(000s)

	Quarterly Worker Count			
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	
HIGHLY SEASONAL GROUP				
Seafood Processing Workers, Except Surimi and Fish Roe	7,884	11,909	4,904	\$29,269
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	6,374	7,463	5,343	\$25,573
Construction Laborers	5,497	6,946	3,740	\$34,278
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	6,259	6,460	6,057	\$23,564
Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Incl. Fast Food	5,811	6,281	5,181	\$10,605
Waiters and Waitresses	5,058	5,857	4,185	\$12,362
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	4,573	4,776	4,419	\$30,139
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	3,467	4,297	2,623	\$10,874
Carpenters	4,104	4,814	3,279	\$31,038
All Other Highly Seasonal Occupations	41,278	48,832	33,008	\$270,224
MODERATELY SEASONAL GROUP				
Retail Salespersons	12,760	13,923	11,301	\$50,746
Office Clerks, General	8,248	8,688	7,636	\$42,365
Cashiers	6,256	6,881	5,500	\$17,155
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	3,518	3,741	3,347	\$26,031
Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	3,792	3,910	3,631	\$25,959
Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	3,326	3,794	2,671	\$40,861
General and Operations Managers	3,508	3,652	3,329	\$48,829
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	2,049	2,376	1,840	\$6,350
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	2,445	2,592	2,288	\$9,687
Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	2,328	2,416	2,097	\$13,793
All Other Moderately Seasonal Occupations	93,293	103,280	82,484	\$764,685
MINIMALLY SEASONAL GROUP				
Teacher Assistants	6,378	6,974	5,232	\$23,501
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	3,806	3,974	3,605	\$42,180
Sales and Related Workers, All Other	2,397	2,493	2,235	\$11,569
Teachers and Instructors, All Other	2,344	2,675	2,024	\$14,324
Secondary School Teachers, Exc. Spec. & Vocational Ed.	1,589	1,629	1,500	\$15,288
Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	1,768	1,942	1,371	\$9,896
Retail Sales Workers, Supervisors/First Line Managers	1,219	1,284	1,156	\$9,883
Engineers, All Other	900	956	863	\$17,224
Information and Record Clerks, All Other	818	890	718	\$5,815
Shipping, Receiving, and Traffic Clerks	723	773	681	\$4,349
All Other Minimally Seasonal Occupations	13,629	15,559	11,682	\$137,633
NON-SEASONAL GROUP				
Managers, All Other	3,068	3,162	2,886	\$40,079
Customer Service Representatives	3,394	3,526	3,211	\$17,932
Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other	3,192	3,467	2,919	\$19,019
Office and Administrative Support Workers, Spvs/Mgrs	1,774	1,790	1,768	\$17,266
Chief Executives	1,512	1,543	1,471	\$31,689
Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	1,212	1,325	986	\$13,794
Administrative Services Manager	1,391	1,432	1,341	\$16,010
Financial Specialists, All Other	1,246	1,296	1,184	\$11,923
Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	1,226	1,265	1,203	\$15,497
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	1,171	1,210	1,133	\$14,485
All Other Non-Seasonal Occupations	29,455	31,906	26,669	\$264,130

Note: The average quarterly worker count and average quarterly wages are for calendar years 1999 through 2002. The maximum and minimum worker count is for 2002.

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

quarterly employment and 20 percent of average quarterly wages. The minimally seasonal and non-seasonal groups when added together represent scarcely 27 percent of the individuals working in the state but they capture 33 percent of average quarterly wages. (See Exhibit 1.)

At first glance, quarterly earnings data seem to indicate that highly seasonal workers are among the lowest paid workers in the state, since they show the lowest earnings of the four groups. However, the methods for collecting the data make average seasonal earnings appear lower than they really are. There are quarters in which a worker may be employed for only a short period of time, but his wages are averaged over the whole quarter. A worker who holds multiple jobs or works for multiple employers or in multiple occupation classifications during the year will be counted more than once.

An extreme example of how seasonal employment might create a false impression of low wages follows: A seafood processing worker is hired for the season in late June. The worker is paid \$100 in June, and thus has a few days' wages for the second quarter ending June 30th. The worker has a full quarter's wages of \$3,000 for the third quarter, and only one week's wages of \$100 for the fourth quarter. Adding the worker's wages for the three quarters and dividing by three, gives us average wages per quarter of \$1,067, roughly one-third of the actual wages for a full quarter.

Some highly seasonal occupations are well paid. Even with the partial quarter effect described above, average wages per quarter for construction workers are in the higher ranges, comparable to those of the minimally seasonal group. Work in the construction trades is skilled, compared to seafood processing or waiter and waitress classifications.

Seasonality makes a difference

Nearly one in three workers in the state is in a highly seasonal occupation. Combined, these workers earn roughly one fifth of total average

quarterly wages. Workers in moderately seasonal occupations make up another 45 percent earning 46 percent of the wage income. Thus, while only one third of employees work in highly seasonal occupations, nearly three quarters of the state's workers are in occupations that have some seasonal characteristics. Workers in the minimally seasonal and non-seasonal occupations make up the remainder (26 percent) and earn 33 percent of the total average quarterly wages.

Methodology

Using occupation and wage data gathered from Alaska's Quarterly Contribution Reports for workers eligible for unemployment insurance for the calendar years 1999 through 2002, we developed a method for classifying occupations according to their seasonal characteristics. For each occupation that had an average of at least 10 workers per quarter over the four-year period, we measured the variation in the number of workers per quarter, and in how many different quarters peak employment fell. Peak employment could fall into one, two, three, or four different quarters. If peak employment always occurs in the same quarter, there is a strong seasonal pattern. If peak employment falls in a different quarter every year, there is no discernible seasonal pattern. We used a procedure called k-means clustering to classify each occupation into one of the four groups. The amount of variation and the strength of the seasonal pattern determined how each occupation fit into a group.

Nearly 23,000 Alaskans work for themselves

We think of people who work for themselves as innovators, entrepreneurs, free-lancers, risk takers. For many, becoming one's own boss represents the fulfillment of the American Dream.

According to surveys, when individuals are asked their choice between different kinds of jobs, more than half say they would choose self-employment. Self-employed individuals go out into the economy and create their own employment and economic opportunities. Examples include fishermen, doctors, plumbers, tour guides, lawyers, childcare workers, pilots, beauticians, and consultants of all kinds.

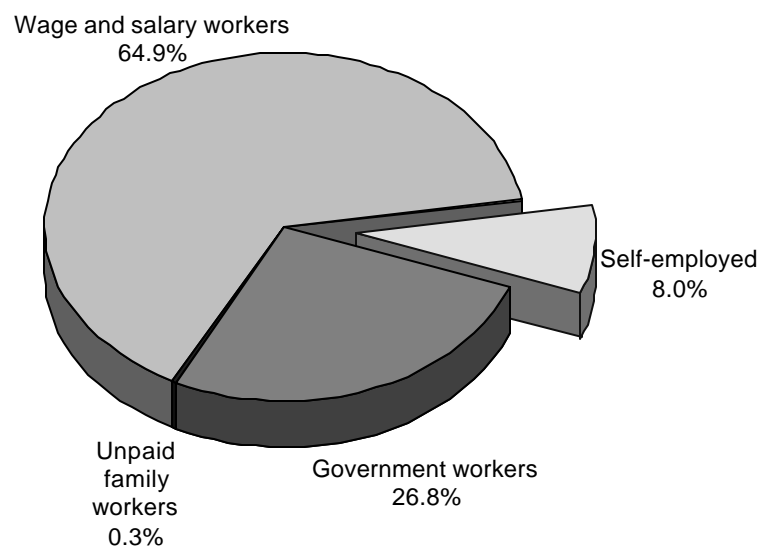
Although this eclectic group represents an important segment of Alaska's employment picture, very little is known about it. For employees on a payroll, employment data are produced on a regular basis, but for the self-employed, little information exists. But every ten years the self-employed in Alaska and around the country are tallied when the U.S. Bureau of the Census conducts the decennial census. These data became available earlier this year and some of the results are discussed below.

So who are the self-employed?

In 2000, one in five Alaska households completed the long form of the Census questionnaire. One of the questions contained in this form was related to the "class of worker." Two of the eight "class of worker" choices were related to the self-

employed. The first included the self-employed who worked in their own businesses, professional practices, or farms which are not incorporated. The second involved people who were self-employed in their own incorporated businesses, professional practices, or farms. When the Census Bureau tallied the results, the only group classified as self-employed was the not incorporated group. The reason the Bureau did not include the self-employed incorporated group is because most of these workers are paid employees of their own companies and therefore were included in the private wage and salary class. When a person had more than one job, the questionnaire asked

The Self-Employed An 8 percent slice of Alaska's workforce



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

which job the worker worked at most. For example, a full-time fisherman that might also spend some time as a part-time adjunct professor at a local university would be counted as self-employed.

A stable group this past decade

In 2000, 22,520 workers or eight percent of the state's workforce identified themselves as self-employed. (See Exhibit 1.) As a percent of the total workforce the self-employed share has not changed much from a decade ago. (See Exhibit 2.) From 1990 to 2000, the number of self-employed grew by 2,462. The self-employment share of the workforce in 2000 was higher than it was during the decades of the 1970s and 1980s. But in 1960 more than 10 percent of Alaska's workforce were self-employed. If the incorporated self-employed were included in these figures another 7,276 workers would be added.

Compared to the nation, Alaskans are more likely to be self-employed. In 2000, 6.6 percent of Americans worked for themselves. (See Exhibit 3.) The numbers vary considerably from state to state. Nationally one of the largest groups of self-employed persons is farmers—despite the fact that their number has declined rapidly. There is no detailed industry breakdown for Alaska's self-employed, but fishermen are likely to be a large group. Other industries in which the self-employed tend to concentrate are construction, retail trade (eating and drinking places are counted in retail) and services. The visitor industry is also probably well represented in this category.

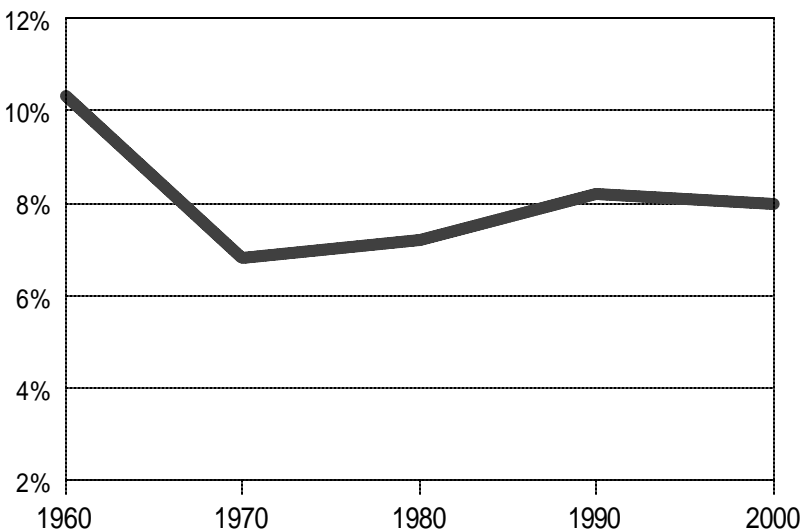
Males predominate among the self-employed. In 2000, approximately 57 percent of the self-employed were male compared to 53 percent of the entire workforce.

Southeast has more of the self-employed

Exhibit 4 sets out the distribution of the self-employed workforce by areas of the state. Wrangell-Petersburg was the high, with 19.3 percent of its workforce self-employed compared to the low of 2.2 percent on the North Slope. Why such a broad difference? The answer is part conjecture, since industry details don't exist. Employment on the North Slope is dominated by the oil industry and government. Oil companies are generally large employers, with few self-

2 Self-Employment Changed Little During the past decade in Alaska

Percent self-employed



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

3 Self-Employed as Share of Total Employed

Percent self-employed



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

employed. The government category includes no self-employment. In the Wrangell-Petersburg area, there are many resident fishermen and the rest of the economy tends to be dominated by small businesses including retail, visitor related and other types of services. There are also few nationwide operations or single dominant employers in most of these communities.

With the exception of Juneau, these characteristics tend to hold for most of Southeast. In nearly every borough and census area in Southeast, the self-employment share of the workforce is in the double digits. Southeast tends to have an older population than the rest of the state and self-employment is higher among older workers. In much of rural Alaska the percent of self-employed tends to be small. This may be because the public sector and nonprofit health care and social service agencies are often big players in these areas and the private for-profit sector is less prevalent. There are of course exceptions. The Denali Borough is a place where the importance of the visitor industry may explain the high levels of self-employment.

Included in Exhibit 4 are the Social Security Administration earnings data for the self-employed. These numbers include all the self-employed, including individuals whose primary job involved working for wages or salaries. Nearly 47,000 individuals reported self-employment income in 1996, and their total earnings amounted to \$513 million.

What does it all mean?

Does the number of self-employed have economic implications? While the answer is “probably,” exactly what the consequences are remains unclear. Instead, the information simply sheds some light on an area’s economy and how it may resemble or differ from other areas. The trend in self-employment is also unclear. Reduced participation in the salmon fishery could cause the number of self-employed to erode, but continued growth in the visitor and service industries might well offset such losses.

Self-Employed Workers by Area Alaska—2000 **4**

	Number	Percent	1996 Taxable Earnings
Statewide	22,520	8.0%	\$512,835,000
Aleutians West Census Area	75	2.3%	NA
Aleutians East Borough	79	7.2%	NA
Anchorage, Municipality	8,819	7.0%	\$198,665,000
Bethel Census Area	196	3.6%	\$3,561,000
Bristol Bay Borough	34	5.9%	NA
Denali Borough	84	10.0%	NA
Dillingham Census Area	124	7.0%	NA
Fairbanks North Star Borough	2,299	6.5%	\$29,461,000
Haines Borough	169	17.0%	NA
Juneau Borough	1,350	8.2%	\$27,501,000
Kenai Peninsula Borough	2,578	12.7%	\$40,736,000
Ketchikan-Gateway Borough	566	8.1%	\$34,360,000
Kodiak Island Borough	575	9.4%	\$16,104,000
Lake and Peninsula Borough	23	4.0%	NA
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	2,734	10.9%	\$43,239,000
Nome Census Borough	113	3.6%	NA
North Slope Borough	65	2.2%	NA
Northwest Arctic Borough	80	3.3%	NA
Prince of Wales Area	300	11.5%	NA
Sitka Borough	542	12.5%	\$35,223,000
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	193	13.1%	NA
Southeast Fairbanks Area	208	10.8%	NA
Valdez-Cordova Area	530	11.9%	\$14,903,000
Wade Hampton Census Area	34	1.9%	NA
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	586	19.3%	\$18,902,000
Yakutat Borough	43	9.8%	NA
Yukon Koyukuk Area	122	5.4%	NA

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census and Social Security Administration, 1996

Census Data on Race

by Jack Cannon
Research Analyst

Detailed information on race released by Census Bureau in Summary File 4

In May, the U.S. Census Bureau released another batch of Census 2000 data. Summary File 4 (SF4) complements the previously released sample-based SF3 file with additional race, ethnic, and ancestry information. It includes data for categories such as Athabascan, Aleut, Eskimo, and Tlingit-

Haida, as well as 35 other individual tribes. There are also 39 Hispanic or Latino groups and 86 ancestry groups.

Race, as used by the Census Bureau, reflects people's own selection of the race or races with which they most closely identify. The categories

1 Employment Status by Race, Sex, and Age Civilian labor force 16 years and over

	Total Alaska Population	White alone*	Black or African American alone*	American Indian and Alaska Native alone*	Asian alone*	Hawaiian Native and other Pacific Islander alone*	Some other race alone*	Two or more races
Males								
16 to 24 years								
Civilian total	22,310	14,884	789	3,558	854	181	453	1,591
Employed	17,577	12,256	579	2,330	656	134	402	1,220
Unemployed	4,733	2,628	210	1,228	198	47	51	371
Unemployment rate	21.2%	17.7%	26.6%	34.5%	23.2%	26.0%	11.3%	23.3%
25 to 64 years								
Civilian total	141,093	109,342	3,959	14,650	5,148	478	2,422	5,094
Employed	128,520	102,111	3,590	11,339	4,438	428	2,024	4,590
Unemployed	12,573	7,231	369	3,311	710	50	398	504
Unemployment rate	8.9%	6.6%	9.3%	22.6%	13.8%	10.5%	16.4%	9.9%
65 years and over								
Civilian total	3,192	2,568	72	259	146	0	32	115
Employed	2,937	2,371	72	234	133	0	24	103
Unemployed	255	197	0	25	13	0	8	12
Unemployment rate	8.0%	7.7%	0.0%	9.7%	8.9%	–	25.0%	10.4%
Females								
16 to 24 years								
Civilian total	21,915	14,568	875	3,632	888	143	460	1,349
Employed	18,436	12,563	736	2,702	788	121	393	1,133
Unemployed	3,479	2,005	139	930	100	22	67	216
Unemployment rate	15.9%	13.8%	15.9%	25.6%	11.3%	15.4%	14.6%	16.0%
25 to 64 years								
Civilian total	118,751	88,549	3,496	14,675	5,643	433	1,465	4,490
Employed	112,041	84,698	3,262	12,750	5,388	368	1,414	4,161
Unemployed	6,710	3,851	234	1,925	255	65	51	329
Unemployment rate	5.7%	4.3%	6.7%	13.1%	4.5%	15.0%	3.5%	7.3%
65 years and over								
Civilian total	2,224	1,691	54	279	103	20	21	56
Employed	2,021	1,570	42	227	90	20	16	56
Unemployed	203	121	12	52	13	0	5	0
Unemployment rate	9.1%	7.2%	22.2%	18.6%	12.6%	0.0%	23.8%	0.0%

* Census 2000 allowed respondents to select either one race alone or a combination of two or more races. This table does not show the combination categories.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF 4

are socio-political rather than scientific or anthropological in nature. The race categories include both racial and national-origin groups.

The detailed race information is repeated for 213 population and 110 housing tables. The population information ranges from language spoken at home and ability to speak English to school enrollment and educational attainment. Housing information such as household size and occupants per room, units in structure, value of home, monthly rent, and shelter costs are also included.

Tables are available at a variety of geographic levels including state, borough/census area, census tract, and place. Information is not reported for population groups that do not meet minimum population thresholds.

The data was obtained from the approximately one-in-six households that received the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire (one-in-eight households in some census tracts, and as high as one-in-two in rural Alaska).

SF4 includes labor force data

Labor force data such as Sex by Age by Employment Status is an example of the type of information included in Summary File 4. Exhibit 1 shows the Unemployment Rate calculated for the civilian population for five major race categories as well as Some Other Race Alone and Two or More Races.

Since Labor Force Status is as of the time the census was taken and not a particular point in time, Census 2000 data is not directly comparable to other published Labor Force measures. (In some rural areas, data was collected as early as January 2000, however, the bulk of collection for Alaska was not completed until May.)

American Indian and Alaska Native males in the 16 to 24 year-old range had the highest unemployment rate at 34.5%. At the other end of the spectrum, the relatively small groups of 65 years-and-older females who identified with either the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders alone group, or Two or More Races group, enjoyed zero percent unemployment.

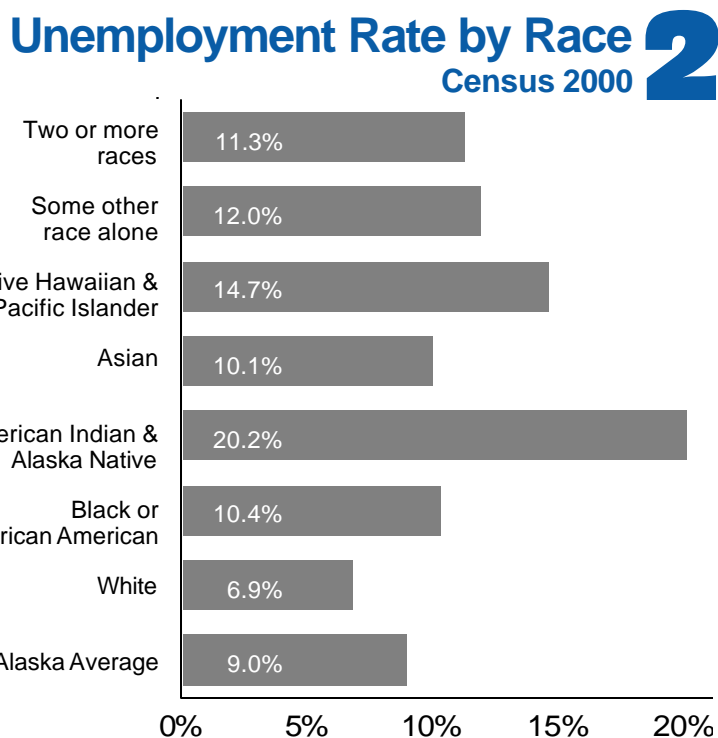
As a group, American Indian and Alaska Natives alone had the highest unemployment rate at 20.2% when age and sex groups were combined. (See Exhibit 2.) Only Whites alone at 6.9% were below the Total Alaska Population average of 9.0%.

More data available on the Internet

Unlike Summary Files 1-3, SF4 will not be included on the Census and Geographic Information Network (CGIN) interactive database. However, selected tables will be available at <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/> and click the Census Information link. The complete SF4 database can be accessed on the US Census Bureau's site at <http://www.census.gov/census2000/states/ak.html>.

The full national file should be available mid-September 2003.

For assistance with Summary File 4, or any census related question, contact the Research and Analysis Section at: (907) 465-2439 or E-mail: Census@labor.state.ak.us



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 4

April Shows Typical Numbers

Alaska Employment Scene

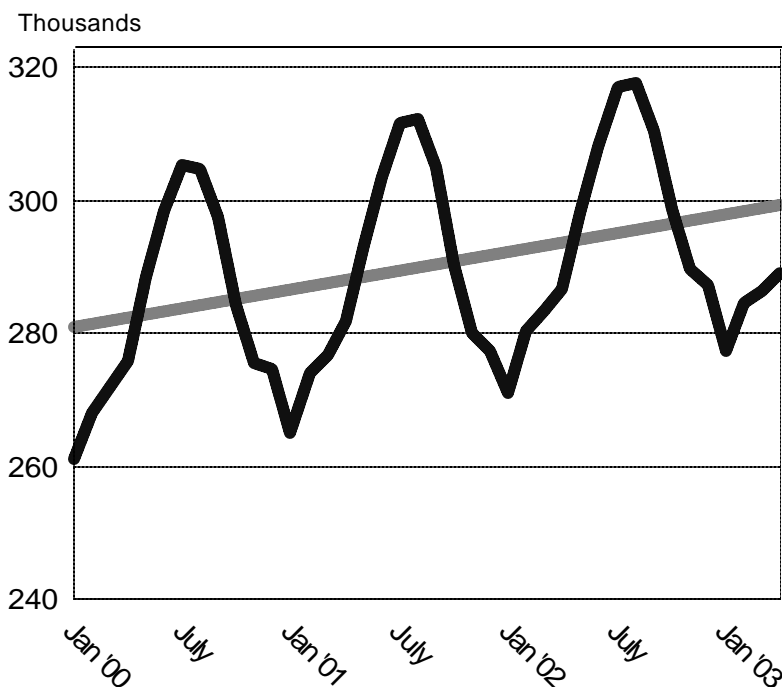
by
Dan Robinson
Labor Economist

Seasonal employment patterns more marked in Alaska than in U.S.

Total nonfarm wage and salary employment increased for the third consecutive month in April. As Exhibit 1 shows, the pattern of Alaska's month-to-month employment change has been consistent for the last several years and 2003 numbers have conformed to that pattern through April.

Exhibit 1 also highlights the dramatic seasonal fluctuations in Alaska's labor market. (See the lead article beginning on page 3 for a discussion of seasonal occupations.) The low point for the year is January, followed by a steady increase in activity and jobs leading up to the peak months of July and August. The pattern then shows a precipitous drop that begins in September, slows slightly for December's holiday season, then hits bottom again in January.

1 Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment Seasonal swings in Alaska



Employment shows seasonal patterns

Alaska has several markedly seasonal industries, the most dramatic being seafood processing. In recent years employment in seafood processing has gone from around 5,000 in January to as high as 15,000 in July. In the accommodations industry, employment went from 5,400 in January 2002 up to its peak for the year of 10,400 in July. (These numbers do not include the self-employed.)

Construction is another industry with strong seasonal patterns. August employment in recent years has been from 7,000 to 8,000 higher than in January. Unusually warm weather in the winter of 2002-03 disrupted the pattern somewhat by extending the building season for both roads and other outside projects.

Employment published under the category of food services and drinking places (restaurants,

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

bars, etc.) also moves higher in the summer months, though not as dramatically. In 2002, January employment in the category was about 15,000 and by July it had climbed to 20,000.

For comparison purposes, Exhibit 2 shows total nonfarm employment for the U.S. during the same time period. The lighter colored lines in both Exhibits 1 and 2 show the overall trends of the Alaska and U.S. labor markets. From January 2000 to April 2003 Alaska saw modest growth while the national economy struggled. Seasonal fluctuations in the U.S. economy are harder to see in recent years because of interruptions by recession, terrorist concerns, and war. As with Alaska, however, the month of lowest employment is generally January. Employment then builds through June, falls off during the summer months of July and August, and then climbs to a second peak in December.

Evidence of a struggling national economy is seen most clearly in the latter months of 2001. After the normal summer lull, the job market could not muster a second peak in December. Consequently, the January 2002 low point was significantly lower than in January 2001.

It is worth noting that the seasonal fluctuations in the national economy are of a much smaller magnitude. The percentage difference between high and low months is generally around three or four percent for the nation; in Alaska the difference has averaged about 17 percent in recent years.

Not much new in April figures

April employment estimates by industry reveal no significant new developments. (See Exhibit 3.) Retail trade has absorbed the loss related to Kmart's closure of five Alaska stores and is up about 400 jobs over the year. Health care jobs are up substantially while employment in the oil and gas industry remains down over the year. Leading into the important summer months, accommodations employment is up by 200 jobs.

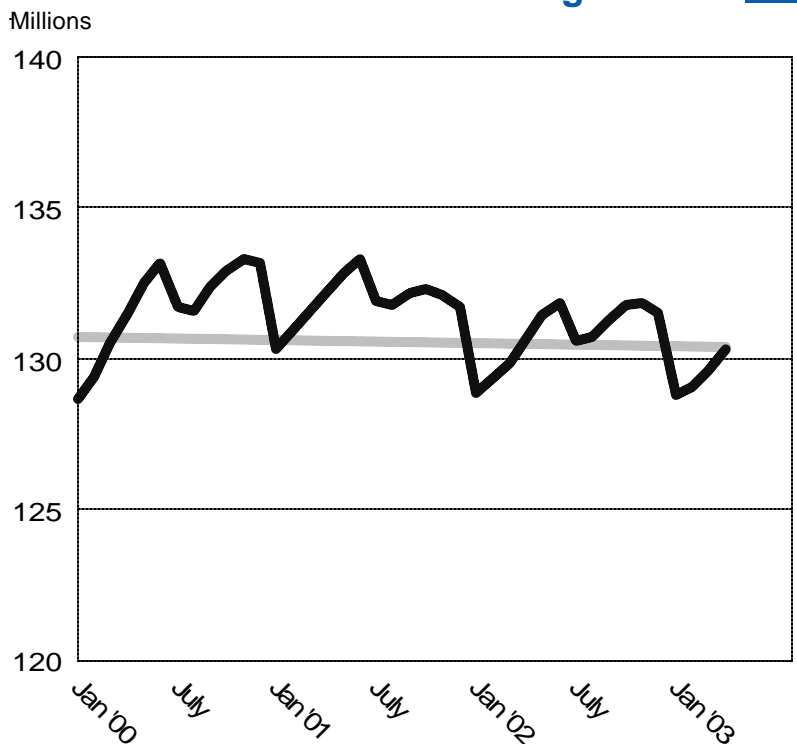
Federal, state, and local government jobs have increased by 1.8 percent over the year.

All of the year's growth has come from the Anchorage/Mat-Su and Interior Regions. The Interior Region added 600 jobs since April 2001, led by 300 new construction jobs. Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley added a combined 3,300 jobs over the year, nearly all of it coming from the service-providing industries.

The Southeast and Northern Regions have suffered the most job losses over the year. The decline in the Northern Region is almost entirely due to fewer jobs in the oil and gas industry. In Southeast, logging, seafood processing, and retail trade are responsible for the majority of the losses.

(continued on page 18)

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment 2 Seasonal swings in U.S.



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

3 Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

Alaska	preliminary revised		Changes from:			Municipality of Anchorage	preliminary revised		Changes from:		
	4/03	3/03	4/02	3/03	4/02		4/03	3/03	4/02	3/03	4/02
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	289,200	286,500	286,600	2,700	2,600	Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	140,400	139,400	137,800	1,000	2,600
Goods Producing	33,700	34,600	34,500	-900	-800	Goods Producing	11,400	11,300	11,600	100	-200
Services Providing	255,500	251,900	252,100	3,600	3,400	Services Providing	129,100	128,100	126,200	1,000	2,900
Natural Resources & Mining	10,100	10,100	11,100	0	-1,000	Natural Resources & Mining	2,600	2,500	2,800	100	-200
Logging	400	300	500	100	-100	Mining	2,500	2,500	2,700	0	-200
Mining	9,800	9,800	10,500	0	-700	Oil & Gas Extraction	2,300	2,400	2,700	-100	-400
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,300	8,300	9,100	0	-800	Construction	7,000	6,900	7,000	100	0
Construction	13,600	13,100	13,400	500	200	Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	1,800	-100	0
Manufacturing	10,000	11,500	10,000	-1,500	0	Trade, Transportation, Utilities	31,800	32,000	31,900	-200	-100
Wood Products Manufacturing	200	200	300	0	-100	Wholesale Trade	4,500	4,500	4,700	0	-200
Seafood Processing	6,200	8,000	6,400	-1,800	-200	Retail Trade	17,000	17,200	16,600	-200	400
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	58,400	58,100	58,700	300	-300	Food & Beverage Stores	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0
Wholesale Trade	6,000	5,900	6,100	100	-100	General Merchandise Stores	4,100	4,300	4,200	-200	-100
Retail Trade	32,900	32,800	32,500	100	400	Trans/Warehousing/Utilities	10,200	10,200	10,700	0	-500
Food & Beverage Stores	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0	Air Transportation	3,400	3,300	3,400	100	0
General Merchandise Stores	8,500	9,000	9,100	-500	-600	Information	4,600	4,500	4,600	100	0
Trans/Warehousing/Utilities	19,500	19,400	20,000	100	-500	Telecommunications	2,600	2,600	2,700	0	-100
Air Transportation	6,000	5,900	6,300	100	-300	Financial Activities	8,000	8,000	8,100	0	-100
Truck Transportation	2,700	2,600	2,600	100	100	Professional & Business Svcs	16,100	16,000	15,700	100	400
Information	7,000	6,800	7,100	200	-100	Educational & Health Services	17,000	16,800	15,900	200	1,100
Telecommunications	4,000	3,900	4,100	100	-100	Health Care/Social Assistance	15,500	15,300	14,400	200	1,100
Financial Activities	13,300	13,200	13,200	100	100	Ambulatory Health Care	6,700	6,500	5,900	200	800
Professional & Business Svcs	22,300	22,100	22,200	200	100	Hospitals	4,800	4,700	4,500	100	300
Educational & Health Services	31,200	30,800	30,100	400	1,100	Leisure & Hospitality	14,600	14,000	14,100	600	500
Health Care/Social Assistance	28,900	28,600	27,800	300	1,100	Accommodation	3,100	2,700	2,900	400	200
Ambulatory Health Care	12,500	12,200	11,700	300	800	Food Svcs & Drinking Places	9,800	9,600	9,400	200	400
Hospitals	7,700	7,600	7,400	100	300	Other Services	6,000	6,000	5,700	0	300
Leisure & Hospitality	27,500	25,700	26,800	1,800	700	Government	31,000	30,800	30,100	200	900
Accommodation	6,200	5,600	6,000	600	200	Federal Government	9,700	9,700	9,300	0	400
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	17,400	16,300	16,800	1,100	600	State Government	9,800	9,800	9,600	0	200
Other Services	12,300	12,200	12,100	100	200	Local Government	11,500	11,300	11,200	200	300
Government	83,500	82,900	82,000	600	1,500	Tribal Government	300	300	200	0	100
Federal Government	16,500	16,500	16,000	0	500						
State Government	25,000	24,900	24,300	100	700						
Local Government	42,100	41,600	41,600	500	500						
Tribal Government	3,300	3,400	3,200	-100	100						

Notes to Exhibits 3, 4, 5, & 7—Non-farm excludes self-employed workers, fishermen, domestics, and unpaid family workers as well as agricultural workers. Government category includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.
Exhibits 3 & 4—Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Exhibits 5 & 7—Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

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

4 Hours and Earnings

For selected industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	preliminary 4/03	revised 3/03	revised 4/02	preliminary 4/03	revised 3/03	revised 4/02	preliminary 4/03	revised 3/03	revised 4/02
Mining	\$1,382.30	\$1,286.86	\$1,356.00	46.0	41.7	48.9	\$30.05	\$30.86	\$27.73
Construction	1171.83	1088.03	999.23	40.2	38.9	38.7	29.15	27.97	25.82
Manufacturing	462.29	445.74	499.63	37.8	38.0	36.9	12.23	11.73	13.54
Seafood Processing	464.97	395.37	374.19	43.7	38.8	38.3	10.64	10.19	9.77
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	536.67	526.60	525.52	33.5	33.8	32.3	16.02	15.58	16.27
Retail Trade	452.81	445.25	465.10	32.6	32.5	31.9	13.89	13.70	14.58
Financial Activities	683.76	704.94	734.62	37.0	38.5	34.2	18.48	18.31	21.48

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 2002

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

5 Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

	preliminary revised		Changes from:				preliminary revised		Changes from:		
	4/03	3/03	4/02	3/03	4/02		4/03	3/03	4/02	3/03	4/02
Fairbanks North Star Borough						Interior Region					
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	35,300	34,800	34,700	500	600	Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	40,450	39,150	39,850	1,300	600
Goods Producing	3,250	3,100	3,000	150	250	Goods Producing	3,500	3,300	3,200	200	300
Services Providing	32,000	31,700	31,750	300	250	Services Providing	36,950	35,800	36,650	1,150	300
Natural Resources & Mining	850	800	800	50	50	Natural Resources & Mining	950	900	950	50	0
Mining	850	800	800	50	50	Mining	950	850	950	100	0
Construction	1,900	1,800	1,650	100	250	Construction	2,000	1,900	1,700	100	300
Manufacturing	550	500	500	50	50	Manufacturing	550	550	550	0	0
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	7,100	7,150	7,100	-50	0	Trade, Transportation, Utilities	7,950	7,750	7,900	200	50
Retail Trade	4,150	4,200	4,050	-50	100	Information	800	800	850	0	-50
General Merchandise Stores	900	1,000	1,100	-100	-200	Financial Activities	1,400	1,350	1,300	50	100
Trans/Warehousing/Utilities	2,450	2,450	2,550	0	-100	Professional & Business Svcs	1,750	1,700	1,850	50	-100
Air Transportation	800	800	850	0	-50	Educational & Health Services	3,850	3,850	3,800	0	50
Information	600	600	650	0	-50	Leisure & Hospitality	4,500	3,850	4,350	650	150
Financial Activities	1,300	1,300	1,250	0	50	Accommodation	950	950	900	0	50
Professional & Business Svcs	1,650	1,650	1,750	0	-100	Food Svcs & Drinking Places	2,900	2,450	2,850	450	50
Educational & Health Services	3,700	3,700	3,650	0	50	Other Services	2,200	2,150	2,250	50	-50
Health Care/Social Assistance	3,450	3,450	3,350	0	100	Government	14,500	14,350	14,400	150	100
Leisure & Hospitality	3,650	3,550	3,600	100	50	Federal Government	3,700	3,600	3,650	100	50
Accommodation	900	800	850	100	50	State Government	5,550	5,500	5,450	50	100
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	2,450	2,350	2,400	100	50	Local Government	5,250	5,300	5,250	-50	0
Other Services	1,950	1,950	2,050	0	-100	Tribal Government	250	200	250	50	0
Government	11,950	11,850	11,750	100	200	Anchorage/Mat-Su Region					
Federal Government	3,300	3,300	3,250	0	50	Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	154,650	153,300	151,350	1,350	3,300
State Government	5,300	5,250	5,200	50	100	Goods Producing	13,100	12,750	13,000	350	100
Local Government	3,350	3,300	3,350	50	0	Services Providing	141,550	140,550	138,350	1,000	3,200
Tribal Government	0	0	0	0	0	Natural Resources & Mining	2,650	2,600	2,900	50	-250
Southeast Region						Construction	8,350	8,050	8,150	300	200
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	33,650	32,600	34,100	1,050	-450	Manufacturing	2,100	2,100	1,950	0	150
Goods Producing	2,950	2,650	3,350	300	-400	Trade, Transportation, Utilities	35,500	35,600	34,900	-100	600
Services Providing	30,700	29,950	30,750	750	-50	Information	4,950	4,800	5,050	150	-100
Natural Resources & Mining	450	450	650	0	-200	Financial Activities	8,650	8,600	8,650	50	0
Logging	150	150	300	0	-150	Professional & Business Svcs	16,750	16,750	16,450	0	300
Mining	300	300	300	0	0	Educational & Health Services	18,450	18,150	17,800	300	650
Construction	1,400	1,200	1,450	200	-50	Leisure & Hospitality	16,100	15,500	15,400	600	700
Manufacturing	1,050	1,000	1,250	50	-200	Other Services	6,400	6,600	6,300	-200	100
Wood Products Mfg.	150	150	150	0	0	Government	34,800	34,550	33,800	250	1,000
Seafood Processing	700	600	800	100	-100	Federal Government	9,800	9,850	9,500	-50	300
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	6,000	5,700	6,250	300	-250	State Government	10,900	10,900	10,550	0	350
Retail Trade	3,850	3,750	4,050	100	-200	Local Government	14,050	13,750	13,750	300	300
Trans/Warehousing/Utilities	1,750	1,600	1,750	150	0	Tribal Government	300	350	250	-50	50
Information	500	500	500	0	0	Gulf Coast Region					
Financial Activities	1,150	1,150	1,150	0	0	Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	26,900	26,050	27,050	850	-150
Professional & Business Svcs	1,300	1,250	1,350	50	-50	Goods Producing	5,500	5,300	5,600	200	-100
Educational & Health Services	3,450	3,450	3,350	0	100	Services Providing	21,350	20,750	21,400	600	-50
Health Care/Social Assistance	3,300	3,250	3,150	50	150	Natural Resources & Mining	1,300	1,250	1,500	50	-200
Leisure & Hospitality	3,150	2,850	3,250	300	-100	Oil & Gas Extraction	1,200	1,150	1,350	50	-150
Accommodation	2,350	2,200	2,450	150	-100	Construction	1,450	1,400	1,350	50	100
Food Svcs & Drinking Places	1,400	1,300	1,450	100	-50	Manufacturing	2,750	2,650	2,750	100	0
Other Services	1,100	1,100	1,150	0	-50	Seafood Processing	2,100	2,000	2,100	100	0
Government	14,050	13,950	13,750	100	300	Trade, Transportation, Utilities	5,000	4,800	5,200	200	-200
Federal Government	1,850	1,750	1,700	100	150	Retail Trade	2,950	2,950	3,150	0	-200
State Government	5,900	5,900	5,850	0	50	Trans/Warehousing/Utilities	1,800	1,650	1,800	150	0
Local Government	6,300	6,250	6,200	50	100	Information	400	400	400	0	0
Tribal Government	550	600	550	-50	0	Financial Activities	850	850	800	0	50
						Professional & Business Svcs	1,350	1,350	1,400	0	-50
						Educational & Health Services	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0
						Health Care/Social Assistance	1,850	1,800	1,800	50	50
						Leisure & Hospitality	2,850	2,600	2,800	250	50
						Accommodation	1,000	800	1,000	200	0
						Food Svcs & Drinking Places	1,600	1,450	1,600	150	0
						Other Services	1,450	1,350	1,450	100	0
						Government	7,550	7,500	7,450	50	100
						Federal Government	750	750	750	0	0
						State Government	1,700	1,650	1,700	50	0
						Local Government	5,100	5,100	5,050	0	50
						Tribal Government	300	350	300	-50	0

6 Unemployment Rates

By region and census area

(continued from page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted	preliminary	revised	04/02
	04/03	03/03	
United States	5.8	6.2	5.7
Alaska Statewide	7.4	7.8	7.8
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.9	6.1	6.1
Municipality of Anchorage	5.2	5.3	5.4
Mat-Su Borough	8.8	9.6	9.4
Gulf Coast Region	10.6	12.1	11.4
Kenai Peninsula Borough	11.4	12.3	12.1
Kodiak Island Borough	7.1	11.4	8.4
Valdez-Cordova	11.5	12.1	12.2
Interior Region	7.6	8.1	7.9
Denali Borough	11.0	13.3	9.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.7	7.1	6.8
Southeast Fairbanks	11.9	13.5	14.2
Yukon-Koyukuk	17.8	18.3	18.7
Northern Region	14.0	13.2	13.5
Nome	13.4	13.1	13.9
North Slope Borough	10.7	10.1	10.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	19.4	17.8	17.6
Southeast Region	8.0	8.9	8.9
Haines Borough	14.6	15.2	13.6
Juneau Borough	5.5	6.0	5.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	9.4	9.5	11.5
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	12.4	16.2	15.9
Sitka Borough	5.3	7.1	6.4
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	11.4	12.9	13.3
Wrangell-Petersburg	11.6	13.2	11.8
Yakutat Borough	21.5	19.9	12.9
Southwest Region	13.3	11.6	12.8
Aleutians East Borough	3.9	2.9	3.6
Aleutians West	8.8	7.1	8.4
Bethel	14.8	13.2	13.3
Bristol Bay Borough	10.9	9.2	13.6
Dillingham	11.3	11.3	12.1
Lake & Peninsula Borough	17.3	16.2	14.1
Wade Hampton	22.3	19.3	23.3
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	6.0	5.8	5.9
Alaska Statewide	7.2	6.8	7.6

Unemployment rate slightly lower

April's unemployment rate fell four-tenths of a percentage point to 7.4 percent. As reason would suggest, the unemployment rate generally moves in the opposite direction from employment, reaching its high point in the winter and then steadily falling through July and August. Despite concerns about the upcoming summer visitor season and the national economy, the April numbers indicate that Alaska's labor market is still relatively stable.

At 5.2 percent, Anchorage's unemployment rate continues to be lower than the majority of the state. Alaska's rural areas once again have the highest rates. The Wade Hampton Census Area recorded 22.3 percent for April and the Yakutat Borough 21.5 percent.

7 Nonfarm Wage/Salary Employment

By place of work

Northern Region	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	4/03	3/03	4/02	3/03	4/02
Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	15,850	16,000	16,350	-150	-500
Goods Producing	5,200	5,400	5,700	-200	-500
Services Providing	10,650	10,600	10,600	50	50
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,250	4,450	4,650	-200	-400
Government	5,150	5,100	5,050	50	100
Federal Government	150	150	150	0	0
State Government	350	350	300	0	50
Local Government	4,700	4,600	4,550	100	150
Tribal Government	450	500	450	-50	0

Southwest Region

Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary	17,800	19,500	17,850	-1,700	-50
Goods Producing	3,450	5,400	3,600	-1,950	-150
Services Providing	14,300	14,100	14,250	200	50
Seafood Processing	3,300	5,250	3,450	-1,950	-150
Government	7,550	7,500	7,600	50	-50
Federal Government	350	350	350	0	0
State Government	550	550	500	0	50
Local Government	6,700	6,600	6,800	100	-100
Tribal Government	1,350	1,400	1,400	-50	-50

2002 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 and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

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

Employer Resources

Are you an employer needing to hire minors for summertime help? There are several procedures you must follow before they can begin work. Point your browser to <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/employer/employer.htm>, click on "Employment Practices and Working Conditions", then click on "Work Permit".

The first screenshot shows the homepage of the Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development. The navigation menu includes "Job Seekers", "Workers", "Employers", "Researchers", and "Department Shortcuts". The "Links for Employers" section lists various resources, with "Employment Practices and Working Conditions" highlighted by an arrow.

The second screenshot shows the "Forms and Publications" page. It lists several documents available for download in Adobe PDF format, including "Application for Certificate of Fitness", "Certified Payroll - show Fiscal worksheets", "Flexible Work Hour Plan", "OSH Manager's Handbook", "Work Permit", "Employment Practices and Working Conditions (Pamphlet 300)", and "Youth Employment - Net Fishing". The "Work Permit" link is highlighted by an arrow.

The third screenshot shows the "ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT" work permit form. The form includes instructions, a notice, and a section for employer completion. The "Return permit to FAX number:" field is highlighted by an arrow.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WORK PERMIT MUST BE COMPLETED AND APPROVED BEFORE MINOR CAN BEGIN WORKING PER AS 23.10.332.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Employer to complete and sign Section A.
2. Parent or guardian to complete and sign Section B.
3. Send or fax work permit and LEGIBLE copy of proof of age to nearest Wage and Hour Administration office.

Call nearest Wage & Hour Administration office if you have questions (see reverse of form for addresses, telephone and FAX numbers).

NOTICE:

All information requested is required to process this work permit. Records of the Department are public records and may be subject to inspection and copying under AS 09.25.110-220 or be provided to other State agencies (See AS 44.99.310).

Return permit to FAX number:

Section (A) to be completed by EMPLOYER

Name of Employer:	DUA		
Employer's Local Working Address:	City:	Zip:	
Location of Employment (Physical Address):	City:	Zip:	
Duties to be Performed by Minor:	Tools, Equipment, Machinery to be Used by Minor:		
Do these duties involve being on a licensed premise where alcoholic beverages are consumed or sold? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Hourly Rate:	Pay Period:	