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★ Alaska

Employment Trends



Volume 1

Prepared by Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division
Juneau, Alaska

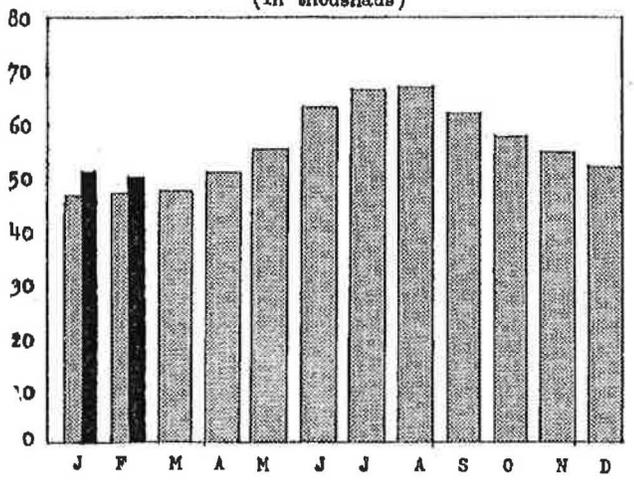
Number 2

February 1961
S U M M A R Y

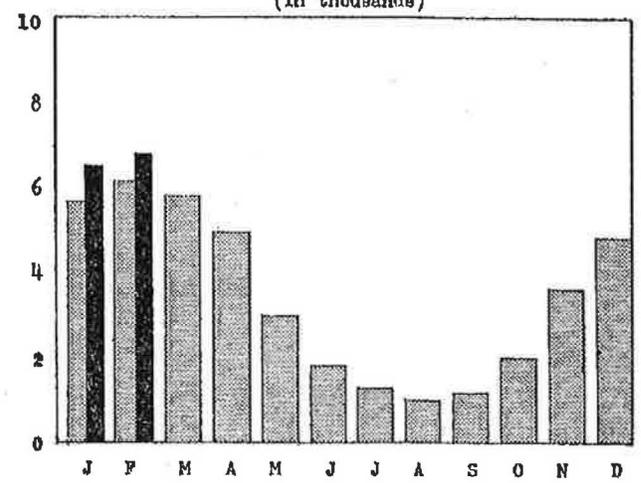
Employment: Mid-February 1961 nonagricultural employment was estimated at 50,300 jobs. This represents a decline of 500 jobs and 1.0 percent from mid-January 1961, and is the smallest numerical and lowest percentage month-to-month decline since employment began moving down from the mid-August 1960 peak. It is also a sign that employment is approaching the seasonal low, and may be expected to pick up sometime in March or April. The February job decline was restricted to minor workforce reductions in Trade, Service, and Government, while employment in other industries remained at the January level. A year-to-year comparison indicates that February 1961 employment was higher than that of February 1960 by 2,200 jobs and 4.5 percent. This increase was achieved despite lower employment in the Mining and Manufacturing Industries; and can be credited mainly to sustained economic growth in some industries, staffing of early warning system installations, increased government services, and a higher level of job carry-over on construction project starts made last spring and summer.

Unemployment: The number of insured unemployed workers in mid-February 1961 was 6,821. This is a rise in joblessness of 252 workers from mid-January 1961, and of 614 from mid-February 1960. Conforming to the usual seasonal movement, February was the sixth month in a row that unemployment increased from the month before. However, the January-February increase was only 3.8 percent, which is significantly lower than prior month-to-month increases, and is an indication that unemployment is nearing the seasonal peak. The year-to-year increase in

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY MONTH
1960 - 1961
(in thousands)



INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT BY MONTH
1960 - 1961
(in thousands)



1960 1961

unemployment was principally due to higher seasonal employment in 1960 than in 1959 and subsequently higher unemployment as seasonal work forces were curtailed. The most pronounced changes in February 1961 State Insured unemployment levels from both January 1961 and February 1960 were increases in the Service and Manufacturing Industries, and decreases in the Mining and Contract Construction Industries. Unemployment Insured by Federal Law increased slightly from year to year, but decreased from month to month.

I N D U S T R Y D E T A I L

Mining: Mid-February 1961 employment in the Mining Industry was estimated at 700 jobs which is the same as that estimated for mid-January 1961. A year-to-year decline of 100 jobs is in conformity with the long-term downtrend in the industry and is associated with reduced coal and metal mining activity. It is expected that employment in the industry will begin to increase as soon as scheduled oil exploration projects are initiated.

Contract Construction: Employment in the construction industry, which was estimated to be 3,200 jobs, in mid-February remained unchanged from the previous mid-month estimate, and appears to have reached or nearly reached the bottom of the seasonal cycle. Although there was some limited hiring for construction in February, there were also layoffs on projects

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT BY MAJOR INDUSTRY

INDUSTRY	Mid.-Mon. February 1961	Mid.-Mon. January 1961	Mid.-Mon. February 1960	Net Change to February 1961 from: Jan. '61 Feb. '60	
TOTAL INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT	6,821	6,569	6,207	+ 252	+ 614
INSURED BY FEDERAL LAW	786	813	744	- 27	+ 42
INSURED BY STATE LAW	6,035	5,756	5,463	+ 279	+ 572
Mining	299	401	404	- 104	- 105
Contract Construction	2,262	2,292	2,565	- 30	- 103
Manufacturing	1,429	1,201	985	+ 228	+ 444
Transportation, Commun. & Public Utilities	562	537	529	+ 25	+ 33
Trade	545	475	593	+ 70	- 48
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	61	62	48	- 1	+ 13
Service & Others	877	788	339	+ 89	+ 538

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT SERIES

Estimates are derived from large-firm employer sample reports, representing wage and salary workers except self-employed, domestics, members of Armed Forces and agricultural workers. Estimates are for pay periods nearest the 15th of the month and are rounded to the nearest hundred.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES

Averages are based on data for full and part-time production and nonsupervisory workers and are for gross earnings and hours worked, or paid for, including overtime pay and hours. Excludes administrative, supervisory, technical and office personnel.

UNEMPLOYMENT SERIES

Data are based on weeks claimed during a mid-month key week. The industry designation is that of the highest earnings in the year prior to filing for unemployment insurance.

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

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT ALASKA

INDUSTRY	February	January	February	Changes From:	
	1961 Prelim.	1961 Revised	1960 Final	January 1961	February 1960
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	50,300	50,800	48,100	- 500	+ 2,200
MINING	700	700	800	0	- 100
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	3,200	3,200	2,300	0	+ 900
MANUFACTURING	3,200	3,200	3,900	0	- 700
Food Processing	1,300	1,400	1,400	- 100	- 100
Logging, Lumber & Pulp	1,300	1,200	1,900	+ 100	- 600
Other Manufacturing	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, & PUBLIC UTILITIES	6,400	6,400	5,800	0	+ 600
Trucking & Warehousing	700	700	700	0	0
Water Transportation	1,000	1,100	1,100	- 100	- 100
Air Transportation	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	+ 100
Other Transp., Comm., & Utilities	2,700	2,600	2,100	+ 100	+ 600
TRADE	7,300	7,500	6,800	- 200	+ 500
Wholesale	1,500	1,600	1,200	- 100	+ 300
Retail	5,800	5,900	5,600	- 100	+ 200
Gen. Mdse. & Apparel	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
Food Stores	900	900	800	0	+ 100
Eating & Drinking Places	1,400	1,500	1,400	- 100	0
Other Retail Trade	2,000	2,000	1,900	0	+ 100
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,500	1,500	1,400	0	+ 100
SERVICE & MISCELLANEOUS	5,400	5,500	4,900	- 100	+ 500
GOVERNMENT	22,600	22,800	22,200	- 200	+ 400
Federal	14,300	14,400	15,600	- 100	- 1,300
State ^{1/}	4,900	4,900	3,300	0	+ 1,600
Local	3,400	3,500	3,300	- 100	+ 100

^{1/} Includes teachers in State-operated primary & secondary schools, & personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

HOURS & EARNINGS - SELECTED INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Prelim. Feb. '61	Revised Jan. '61	Final Feb. '60	Prelim. Feb. '61	Revised Jan. '61	Final Feb. '60	Prelim. Feb. '61	Revised Jan. '61	Final Feb. '60
MINING	170.69	189.47	176.47	44.8	49.6	51.6	3.81	3.82	3.42
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	262.23	249.05	208.43	42.5	40.3	39.7	6.17	6.18	5.25
MANUFACTURING	124.34	130.71	116.44	39.6	42.3	36.5	3.14	3.09	3.19
Food Processing	105.73	113.78	104.98	39.6	44.1	37.9	2.67	2.58	2.77
Logging, Lumber, & Pulp	148.23	153.49	141.45	40.5	42.4	39.4	3.66	3.62	3.59
WHOLESALE TRADE	154.97	148.82	151.01	43.9	42.4	41.6	3.53	3.51	3.63
RETAIL TRADE ^{1/}	95.47	98.94	100.46	36.3	38.2	36.8	2.63	2.59	2.73
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	93.36	95.43	96.41	--	--	--	--	--	--

^{1/} Excludes eating & drinking places.

that were terminated or approaching completion at Clear and other job sites. An estimated year-to-year increase of 900 jobholders is attributable mainly to a higher level of construction activity in the 1960 season which has resulted in a larger number of job carry-overs on projects still in stages of completion in the early months of 1961.

Manufacturing: The estimated number of mid-February 1961 jobs in the industry was 3,200 which is the same as that for mid-January 1961. From mid-February 1960, there was a sizeable decrease of 700 jobs. This job drop was associated primarily with the logging, lumber, and pulp segments of the industry, and is the result of a pulp price reduction, and a weak log market.

Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities: Mid-February employment in this industry was estimated at 6,900 jobs. This is the same employment level as that estimated for January 1961, but is an increase of 600 jobs from February 1960. Despite the short duration airline work stoppage in February, the Air Transportation segment of the industry contributed to the year-to-year increase; however, the largest part of the job gain was due to additional staffing of the early warning communication system.

Trade: Employment in this industry declined slightly from mid-January 1961 to mid-February 1961 due to typical seasonal factors. An increase of an estimated 500 jobs from February 1960 is indicative of the strong employment growth trend in the industry. Both wholesale and retail trade participated in the upward movement.

Finance, Insurance and Real Estate: Mid-February employment in this industry was estimated at 1,500 jobs, showing no change from the previous mid-month estimate and an increase of 100 jobs from the year-ago level. A large part of the year-to-year increase occurred in the finance segment of the industry, and reflects new branch-bank and finance company openings.

Service and Miscellaneous: The mid-February employment estimate of 5,400 jobs in the industry is 2 percent below the January 1961 job level, and 9 percent above that of February 1960. Most segments of the industry have increased from the year-ago level; however, the educational and medical service segments have had the most rapid growth.

Government: Estimated mid-February 1961 employment in government was 22,600 jobs. This is a decrease of 200 jobs from January 1961, and increase of 400 from February 1960. Although the number of Federal agency jobs dropped off by 1,300 over-the-year as functions formerly performed by them were transferred to the State, the number of State jobs increased more than enough to offset this. Local governments also had an increase in year-to-year employment.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Weekly Earnings: From mid-January 1961 to mid-February 1961, average weekly earnings increased moderately in Contract Construction and Wholesale Trade, and decreased in all other industries represented in the data. Changes in the average number of hours worked per week were responsible in each case, except that of Finance, for the weekly earning movements. Higher weekly hours resulted in the increases in Contract Construction and Wholesale Trade, and lower weekly hours accounted for the decline in Mining, Retail Trade, and all segments of the Manufacturing industry. Mining had the largest drop in weekly hours, and in average weekly earnings.

Mid-February 1961 average weekly earnings were slightly lower in the Retail Trade, Finance, and Mining industries than they were in mid-February 1960, and higher in all other industries. Construction had the largest year-to-year increase as a result of an increase in

hours worked, and negotiated hourly pay raises in most construction trades effected since February 1960. Average weekly earnings gains in Wholesale Trade and Manufacturing were largely a consequence of increases in weekly hours. Although average hourly earnings in Mining were higher in February 1961 than in February 1960, due mainly to general pay raises for oil field workers, average weekly earnings decreased as the number of hours worked weekly fell off sharply.

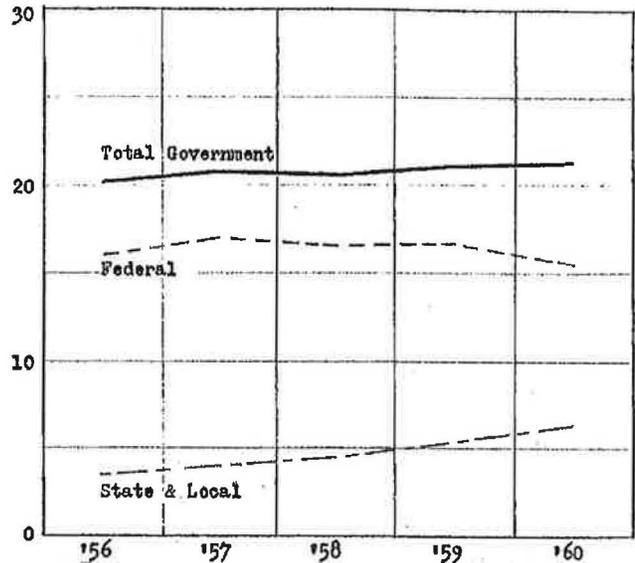
SPECIAL STUDY

Government Employment:

It is estimated that in the 12-month period ending December 1960, average monthly government employment in Alaska was 22,050. This is an increase of 150 jobs from 1959, and the highest government employment level reached in the years for which data is available. A measure of the importance of government in Alaska's economy is contained in the fact that average monthly government employment in 1960 accounted for 38.9 percent of average monthly nonagricultural wage and salary employment. Although Federal government employment declined from the peak 1957 employment of 17,420 to an average of 15,550 in 1960, the number of State and Local government jobholders has increased at a rate sufficient to cause total employment in government to rise slightly from 1958 to 1960. The most pronounced change in the relative proportions of State and Local and Federal government employment as percents of total government, occurred from 1959 to 1960 when functions formerly performed by Federal agencies were transferred to the State government as a result of changes in governmental responsibilities consequent to Statehood. Local government employment, which has increased steadily from 1956, also contributed to the 1959 to 1960 relative increase in State and Local government employment as a percent of total government.

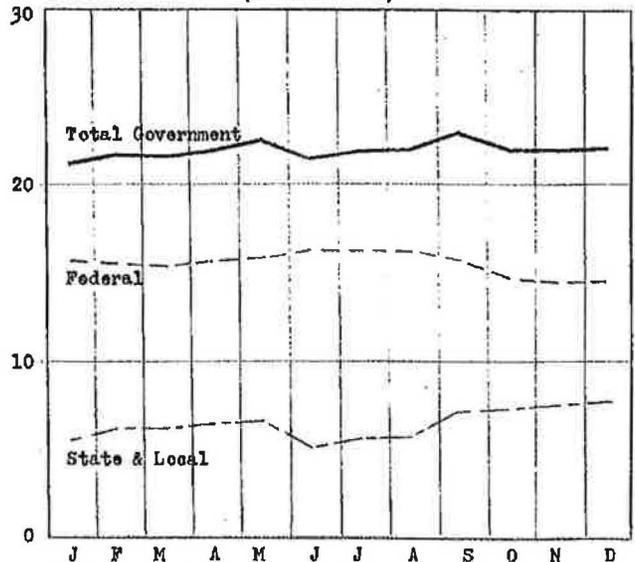
Peak government employment in 1960 was reached in September when there were 22,973 government jobholders. Of this number, 15,700 were Federal government and 7,273 State and Local government employees. Federal government employment increased seasonally through the summer months of 1960, while State and Local government dropped off sharply from May to June at the termination of the school year when schools operated both by the State and by local school districts closed for the summer. Although State and Local government employment in functions other than

AVERAGE MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT ^{1/}
(in thousands)



^{1/}Teachers who have completed contracts & employees of the University of Alaska not included.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT BY MONTH, 1960 ^{1/}
(in thousands)



^{1/}Teachers who have completed contracts & employees of the University of Alaska not included.