

ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS

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2000

THE TRENDS 100



The 100 Private Firms
in Alaska with the
Largest Number of
Employees in 1999

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE :
Employment numbers looking better in 2000

Alaska Department of Labor
And Workforce Development

Tony Knowles,
Governor of Alaska

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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Alaska's largest private employers in 1999

In 1999 there was a slightly new twist for the top employer. For eight years, Carr Gottstein Foods was the number one employer in Alaska. But that changed with the acquisition of Carrs by Safeway, which ranked tenth last year. After the buyout, Safeway's employment climbed to 3,902, making it the state's largest private sector employer ever. (See Exhibit 1.) Safeway, most likely, will stay on the top of the list for years to come. Providence Alaska Medical Center, with 3,027 employees, was again the runner-up, a position it has held since 1995. Its workforce continues to grow through expansions and acquisitions. Just five years ago Providence employed 1,998. The next largest employer in the state, Fred Meyer, has an employee roster a thousand names shorter than Providence's. The remaining top 10 employers were only slightly different from 1998's players.

The 1,000+ club lost members in 1999

The number of companies with a workforce of more than 1,000 has grown from six to 10 over the decade from 1989 to 1999. (See Exhibit 5.) But compared to 1998, the 1999 list had three fewer employers. One employer was lost as a result of Safeway's buyout of Carrs; last year both were 1000+ employers. Two other employers that belonged to the 1,000+ club did not make the list because they became smaller.

Five newcomers join the Trends 100

A relatively small number of newcomers made the list in 1999. (See Exhibit 3.) The length of 1998's newcomer list was the same. This may reflect a stable economic climate. The new players represent an eclectic group of industries. Two are relative newcomers to Alaska; the others have simply been climbing up the list. Alaska Communications Systems (ACS) is truly the new kid on the block. When ACS bought its first property, Anchorage Telephone Utilities (ATU) with a workforce of 750 in 1999, it immediately became one of the state's largest employers. Since then ACS has acquired PTI Communications and Internet Alaska and is attempting to buy Matanuska Telephone Company. If successful, ACS will vault itself into the 1000+ club. United Airlines' employment got a big boost in 1997 when it opened an international air cargo hub in Anchorage. The other companies, Fairbanks Native Association, Halliburton Energy Services and Charter North Behavioral System, all have long histories in Alaska. Their employment inched up enough from 1998 to make the list in 1999.

Eleven companies move up 10 or more rankings

No particular trend explains why some companies were big movers in 1999. (See Exhibit 4.) Two of these employers were tourism-related: Aramark Leisure Services and NANA Marriott Joint Venture

(continued on page 6)

1 Alaska's 100 Largest Private Employers 1999

Rank	Firm Name	Employment	Business Activity	Headquarters or Largest Work Site
1	Safeway Stores/Carr Gottstein Foods	3,902	Grocery	Anchorage*
2	Providence Alaska Medical Center	3,027	Hospital/Medical Center	Anchorage*
3	Fred Meyer	2,015	Grocery/General Merchandise	Anchorage*
4	Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	1,706	General Merchandise	Anchorage*
5	Alaska Airlines	1,640	Air Carrier	Anchorage*
6	ARCO Alaska	1,440	Oil & Gas Production	Anchorage*
7	National Bank of Alaska	1,181	Banking	Anchorage*
8	Lutheran Health Systems	1,090	Hospital/Medical Center	Fairbanks*
9	Federal Express	1,071	Airfreight/Courier Service	Anchorage*
10	AK Petroleum Contractors (a Natchiq company)	1,039	Oil Field Services	Anchorage*
11	BP Exploration	904	Oil & Gas Production	Anchorage*
12	Kmart	859	General Merchandise	Anchorage*
13	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	849	Pipeline Transportation	Fairbanks*
14	Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	806	Credit Union	Anchorage*
15	Alaska Regional Hospital	806	Hospital/Medical Center	Anchorage
16	First National Bank of Anchorage	786	Banking	Anchorage*
17	VECO Operations	772	Oilfield Services	Anchorage*
18	GCI Communications	761	Communications/Cable	Anchorage*
19	Laidlaw Transit	746	School/Charter Bus Company	Anchorage*
20	UniSea	729	Seafood Processing	Dutch Harbor
21	NANA Marriott, Joint Venture	728	Catering/Hotels	Anchorage*
22	Sears Roebuck	711	General Merchandise	Anchorage*
23	Peak Oilfield Service Company	700	Oilfield Services	Anchorage*
24	Alaska Commercial Company	655	Grocery/General Merchandise	Anchorage*
25	ERA Aviation	628	Air Carrier	Anchorage*
26	Spenard Builders Supply	620	Building Products	Anchorage*
27	Tanana Chiefs Conference	609	Social Services/Health Care	Fairbanks*
28	Costco	603	General Merchandise	Anchorage*
29	Peter Pan Seafoods	582	Seafood Processing	King Cove*
30	Icicle Seafoods	573	Seafood Processing	Petersburg*
31	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	556	Health Care	Juneau*
32	North Pacific Processors	547	Seafood Processing	Kodiak*
33	Anchorage Daily News	540	Newspaper	Anchorage
34	Union Oil of California (Unocal)	539	Petroleum Products	Anchorage
35	Westmark Hotels	535	Hotel	Anchorage*
36	Aramark Leisure Services	534	Catering/Concessionaire	Denali Park*
37	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	523	Health Care	Bethel*
38	Williams Express (former Mapco Express)	506	Retail/Gas Stations	Anchorage*
39	Trident Seafoods	500	Seafood Processing	Akutan*
40	Valley Hospital	488	Hospital/Medical Center	Palmer*
41	Ogden Facility Management of Alaska	482	Facilities Management	Anchorage*
42	Pizza Hut	479	Eating Establishment	Anchorage*
43	Norquest Seafood Company	476	Seafood Processing	Ketchikan*
44	Alyeska Resort	469	Hotel/Resort	Girdwood/Anchorage
45	ATT/Alascom	453	Telephone Communications	Anchorage*
46	Burger King	443	Eating Establishment	Anchorage*
47	Southcentral Foundation	440	Health Care Services	Anchorage
48	Hope Cottages	433	Residential Care	Anchorage
49	Maniilaq Association	423	Social Services/Health Care	Kotzebue*
50	Cominco Alaska	413	Mining	Red Dog Mine*

A list of web site addresses for *Trends* 100 employers is available on request.

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

Alaska's 100 Largest Private Employers

1999 (continued)

1

Rank	Firm Name	Employment	Business Activity	Headquarters or Largest Work Site
51	Norton Sound Health Corporation	413	Health Care	Nome*
52	Westward Seafoods	413	Seafood Processing	Unalaska
53	United Parcel Service (UPS)	412	Airfreight/Courier Service	Anchorage*
54	Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	385	Hotel	Denali Park*
55	Houston/NANA Joint Venture	379	Oilfield Services	Anchorage*
56	PenAir	379	Air Carrier	Anchorage*
57	Tesoro Northstore Company	379	Retail/Gas Stations	Anchorage*
58	Denali Foods/Taco Bell	377	Eating Establishment	Anchorage*
59	Doyon/Universal Ogden, Joint Venture	377	Catering/Security	Anchorage*
60	Alaska Communications Systems (ACS)	372	Communications	Anchorage*
61	Chugach Electric Association	366	Utility Company	Anchorage*
62	Wards Cove Packing Company	363	Seafood Processing	Naknek*
63	Anchorage Hilton Hotel	361	Hotel	Anchorage
64	Silver Bay Logging	359	Logging	Juneau*
65	Salvation Army-Alaska	357	Social Services	Anchorage*
66	Cook Inlet Processing	356	Seafood Processing	Nikiski*
67	Hotel Captain Cook	353	Hotel	Anchorage
68	J C Penney Company	350	Department Store	Anchorage*
69	Ketchikan General Hospital	348	Hospital/Medical Center	Ketchikan
70	Northwest Airlines	348	Air Carrier	Anchorage*
71	Ocean Beauty Seafoods	337	Seafood Processing	Kodiak*
72	The Alaska Club	336	Health Club	Anchorage
73	Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	334	Health Care	Dillingham*
74	McDonalds	334	Eating Establishment	Anchorage
75	Chugach North Technical Services	331	Personnel Services	Anchorage*
76	Reeve Aleutian Airways	329	Air Carrier	Anchorage*
77	Lamonts Apparel	326	Apparel	Anchorage*
78	Assets	312	Employment/Residential	Anchorage
79	Sea-Land Freight Service	309	Shipping and Warehouse	Anchorage*
80	Matanuska Telephone Association	303	Telephone Communications	Palmer*
81	Fairbanks Native Association	300	Social Services	Fairbanks
82	Nordstrom	299	Department Store	Anchorage
83	Anchorage Cold Storage Company	296	Wholesale/Grocery	Anchorage*
84	Rural Alaska Community Action Program	292	Social Services	Anchorage*
85	LSG Sky Chefs	289	Catering	Anchorage
86	Williams, Inc. (Alaskan and Proud)	277	Grocery	Ketchikan*
87	Royal Highway Tours	274	Tour Buses	Anchorage*
88	Schlumberger Technologies	272	Oilfield Services	Anchorage*
89	Ketchikan Pulp Company	269	Lumber Products	Ketchikan*
90	Greens Creek Mining Company	267	Mining	Juneau
91	Space Mark	267	Facilities Management	Anchorage*
92	Fairbanks Gold Mining Company (Ft. Knox)	266	Mining	Fairbanks
93	Tyson Shared Services (now Trident Seafoods)	263	Seafood Processing	Kodiak*
94	Carlile Enterprises	262	Trucking/Warehousing	Anchorage*
95	Dynair Services	262	Airport Services	Anchorage
96	Halliburton Energy Services	258	Oilfield Services	Anchorage*
97	Westours Motorcoaches	256	Tour Buses	Fairbanks*
98	Eastgate Theater Company (Regal Theaters)	247	Movie Theaters	Anchorage*
99	Charter North Star Behavioral Health System	246	Health Care	Anchorage
100	United Airlines	245	Air Transportation	Anchorage

* Work sites located in multiple communities.

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

2 Trends 100 by Industry

1999 employment

MINING	Employment
Hard Rock Mining	
Cominco Alaska	413
Greens Creek Mining Company	267
Fairbanks Gold Mining Company (Ft. Knox)	266
Oil & Gas	
ARCO Alaska	1,440
Alaska Petroleum Contractors	1,039
BP Exploration	904
VECO Operations	772
Peak Oilfield Service Company	700
Houston/NANA, Joint Venture	379
Schlumberger Technologies	272
Halliburton Energy Services	258
MANUFACTURING	
Seafood Processing	
UniSea	729
Peter Pan Seafoods	582
Icicle Seafoods	573
North Pacific Processors	547
Trident Seafoods	500
Norquest Seafood Company	476
Westward Seafood	413
Wards Cove Packing Company	363
Cook Inlet Processing	356
Ocean Beauty Seafoods	337
Tyson Shared Services (now Trident Seafoods)	263
Wood Products	
Silver Bay Logging	359
Ketchikan Pulp Company (pulp mill closed 3/97)	269
Other Manufacturing	
Anchorage Daily News	540
Union Oil of California (Unocal)	539
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES	
Air Transportation	
Alaska Airlines	1,640
Federal Express	1,071
ERA Aviation	628
United Parcel Service (UPS)	412
PenAir	379
Northwest Airlines	348
Reeve Aleutian Airways	329
Dynair Services	262
United Airlines	245
Communications & Utilities	
GCI Communications	761
ATT/Alascom	453
Alaska Communications Systems (ACS)	372
Chugach Electric Association	366
Matanuska Telephone Association	303
Other Transportation	
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	849
Laidlaw Transit	746
Sea-Land Freight Service	309
Royal Highway Tours	274
Carlile Enterprises	262
Westours Motorcoaches	256
TRADE	
Eating & Drinking	
NANA Marriott, Joint Venture	728

(JV). Aramark Leisure Services runs a number of different operations in Denali National Park including buses, hotels and food services. NANA Marriott JV built and opened three new hotels in the Anchorage market over the past four years, boosting its employment significantly. Williams Express and Tesoro Northstore Company are the state's biggest gasoline retailers and, over the past three years, both have aggressively opened new stations. Southcentral Foundation's meteoric growth came as a result of the privatization of the Alaska Native Hospital in Anchorage. It would not be surprising if Southcentral were to leapfrog another 10 places in next year's ranking. Houston/NANA JV won a big contract with Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in 1998, boosting its workforce numbers. The Alaska Club grew through acquisitions and expansions. Silver Bay Logging opened a new sawmill in Wrangell in 1998. Employment growth of 20-30 caused Westward Seafoods and PenAir to move up the list. VECO's employment grew in 1999 as a result of major construction activity in the oil industry.

Trends 100 employ a big chunk of the workforce

Alaska's largest employers employ more than 58,000 wage and salary workers or 29 percent of all private sector wage and salary employees. In 1999, employment at the state's largest enterprises actually fell slightly, compared to 0.9% growth for the overall private sector workforce. The reason for this phenomenon is not clear. It could be explained partially by the fact that the oil industry carries disproportionate weight among the largest employers and its employment losses were significant in 1999.

Wages paid by the Trends 100 vary a great deal. The number of employees a firm employs has little to do with its total payroll. There are employers on the bottom half of the list that have significantly larger payrolls than firms among the top 10.

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

A big group comes from the nonprofit sector

Sixteen of the state's largest employers are in the nonprofit sector. (See Exhibit 7.) They represent 17 percent of the *Trends* 100 workforce. Their representation grew by one with the addition of the Fairbanks Native Association. Health care providers are the single largest group of nonprofits. The second largest group provides social services in combination with health care.

Many of these health care providers are also the largest employers in their communities. For example, Providence Hospital is both the state's second largest and Anchorage's largest private sector employer. Other examples include the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (Bethel), the Norton Sound Health Corporation (Nome), Maniilaq Association (Kotzebue), Lutheran Health Systems (Fairbanks), Bristol Bay Health Corporation (Dillingham) and the Valley Hospital (Palmer). That so many health care providers are among the *Trends* 100 employers is not surprising. Health care is a labor-intensive industry that provides around-the-clock and year-round service. Many other big players are the social service organizations, such as the Fairbanks based Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The number of Native organizations on the list increased

Fifteen Native corporations or organizations are now among the top 100 employers. (See Exhibit 6.) A little over a third of these firms are for profit and the rest are nonprofit organizations. A new addition in 1999 was the Fairbanks Native Association. Because the Top 100 list includes only individual firms regardless of ownership, the prominence of regional Native corporations in the state's workforce is partially masked. If subsidiaries and joint ventures of the regional

Aramark Leisure Services	534
Pizza Hut	479
Burger King	443
Doyon/Universal Ogden, Joint Venture	377
Denali Foods/Taco Bell	377
McDonalds	334
LSG Sky Chefs	289
Other Retail	
Safeway Stores/Carr Gottstein Foods	3,902
Fred Meyer	2,015
Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	1,706
Kmart	859
Sears Roebuck	711
Alaska Commercial Company	655
Spenard Builders Supply	620
Costco	603
Williams Express (former Mapco Express)	506
Tesoro Northstore Company	379
J C Penney Company	350
Lamonts Apparel	326
Nordstrom	299
Williams, Inc. (Alaskan and Proud)	277
Wholesale	
Anchorage Cold Storage Company	296
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	
National Bank of Alaska	1,181
Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	806
First National Bank of Anchorage	786
SERVICES	
Hotels	
Westmark Hotels	535
Alyeska Resort	469
Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	385
Anchorage Hilton Hotel	361
Hotel Captain Cook	353
Personnel Services	
Chugach North Technical Services	331
Health Care	
Providence Alaska Medical Center	3,027
Lutheran Health Systems	1,090
Alaska Regional Hospital	806
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	556
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	523
Valley Hospital	488
Southcentral Foundation	440
Maniilaq Association	423
Norton Sound Health Corporation	413
Ketchikan General Hospital	348
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	334
Charter North Star Behavioral Health System	246
Other Services	
Tanana Chiefs Conference	609
Ogden Facility Management of Alaska	482
Hope Cottages	433
Salvation Army - Alaska	357
The Alaska Club	336
Assets	312
Fairbanks Native Association	300
Rural Alaska Community Action Program	292
Space Mark	267
Eastgate Theater Company (Regal Theaters)	247

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

3 Newcomers to *Trends* 100 1999

Alaska Communications Systems (ACS)
Fairbanks Native Association
Halliburton Energy Services
Charter North Star Behavioral Health System
United Airlines

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

4 *Trends* 100 Movers Firms moving up 10 or more ranks from 1998

VECO Operations
NANA Marriott, JV
Aramark Leisure Services
Williams Express
Southcentral Foundation
Westward Seafoods
Houston/NANA JV
Peninsula Airlines
Tesoro Northstore Company
Silver Bay Logging
The Alaska Club

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

corporations were combined, most of the parent corporations would appear in the *Trends* 100. The presence of 15 discrete Native firms on the list, despite this shortcoming, is significant. The largest player is Alaska Petroleum Contractors (APC), a subsidiary of Natchiq Inc., which in turn is a subsidiary of Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. This firm has graced the Top 100 for over a decade. In fact, a number of these companies are either oilfield service companies or provide support to the industry. Included are NANA Marriott JV, Peak Oilfield Company, Houston/NANA JV, Doyon Universal and Chugach North Technical Services. Most other Native-owned firms on this list are health and social services providers.

Top 100 presence is felt around the state

Even though a majority of the Top 100 firms show Anchorage as the headquarters or largest work site, only a handful operate exclusively in the state's largest city. (See Exhibit 1.) The National Bank of Alaska, headquartered in Anchorage with branches in 37 communities around the state, is a good example. None of the 11 seafood processor or timber firms is based in Anchorage. Akutan, a community of 408 on the Aleutian Islands, hosts Trident Seafood Corporation's largest processing plant.

The changes among the top 10

Comparing today's largest companies with the list of the biggest players of a decade ago illustrates some interesting changes. (See Exhibit 5.) Six of the players on the Top 100 in 1989 still rank among this rarefied group. One visible change is the loss of oil industry players. In 1989 there were four, compared with two in 1999—evidence of the downsizing this industry has experienced over the past decade. The 1999 list has twice as many retailers, not counting the

Safeway/Carrs merger. The growth of international air cargo has propelled Federal Express onto this list, and Alaska Airlines' move from tenth place to fifth place may be a testament to the growth in the visitor industry.

Top 10 Compared over Decade **5** Trends 100

The "true" largest employers in the state

When the public sector is included in the lineup, the list of the largest employers changes dramatically. (See Exhibit 8.) With this new definition, only three private sector employers rank in the top 10. This should not be a big surprise, since public organizations tend to be large, and the state's public entities employ 27 percent of the wage and salary workforce. If the public sector becomes a smaller player in the state's economy, more private sector players will find a spot on the all-inclusive largest employer list.

Many of Alaska's largest are also the nation's largest

More than a quarter of the state's largest employers are also found among the Fortune 500, an annual account of the nation's largest companies. The Fortune 500 list is as varied as the *Trends* 100 list. (See Exhibit 9.) The lists include companies as diverse as Costco, Federal Express and NANA Marriott JV. New Fortune 500 companies added to the *Trends* list in 1999 are United Airlines and Halliburton Energy Services.

Most oil industry employment among the *Trends* 100

No other industry is as well represented on the list of the state's largest employers as the oil industry. (See Exhibit 2.) Nearly three quarters of its employment is accounted for on the *Trends* 100 list even though oil industry employment

1999		
Rank	Top 10 Employers	Employment
1	Safeway Stores/Carr Gottstein Foods	3,902
2	Providence Alaska Medical Center	3,027
3	Fred Meyer	2,015
4	Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	1,706
5	Alaska Airlines	1,640
6	ARCO Alaska	1,440
7	National Bank of Alaska	1,181
8	Lutheran Health Systems	1,090
9	Federal Express	1,071
10	Alaska Petroleum Contractors (Natchiq, Inc.)	1,039

1989		
Rank	Top 10 Employers	Employment
1	ARCO Alaska	2,855
2	VECO	2,659
3	Carr Gottstein Foods	2,586
4	Providence Hospital	1,668
5	BP Exploration	1,492
6	National Bank of Alaska	1,075
7	Ketchikan Pulp Company	903
8	Safeway Stores	901
9	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	881
10	Alaska Airlines	878

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

6 Alaska Native Corporations/Organizations

Now fully or partly own and/or operate 15 of the *Trends* 100 firms

	Employment
Alaska Petroleum Contractors	1,039
NANA/Marriott, Joint Venture	728
Peak Oilfield Service Company	700
Tanana Chiefs Conference	609
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	556
Southcentral Foundation	440
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	523
Maniilaq Association	423
Norton Sound Health Corporation	413
Houston/NANA, Joint Venture	379
Doyon/Universal Ogden, Joint Venture	377
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	334
Chugach North Technical Services	331
Fairbanks Native Association	300
Space Mark	267

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

accounts for less than three percent of the total wage and salary workforce. The capital-intensive nature of this industry tends to foster dominance by large companies. Total employment for these firms did fall in 1999 because it was a tough year in the oil patch.

Manufacturing is well represented

Manufacturing accounts for 12 percent of employment in the *Trends* 100, but only five percent of wage and salary employment in the state. *Trends* 100 companies represent nearly half of all manufacturing employment. Most of the manufacturing firms are seafood processors. Logging, a newspaper, and a chemical plant round out the list.

Most of retail is not on this list

Nearly a quarter of all *Trends* 100 workers were employed in retail in 1999—the second largest group after services. This is a decline from retail's heyday in 1997 when it accounted for 30 percent of the Top 100 employers. During the past two years retail's rate of growth has slowed, so its decreasing share in the Top 100 is not surprising. But only a little over a quarter of all retail employment is accounted for on the *Trends* 100 list. This is because retail has so many players. Twenty-two retailers made the *Trends* 100 list, but nearly 3,500 other retailers did not.

Services is the biggest group

Employment in the services industry accounts for a quarter of all *Trends* 100 jobs—not a big surprise since a quarter of all wage and salary employment is also in the services industry. More than half of this employment comes from the already discussed nonprofit health care sector. The only top 100 health care providers that are not in the nonprofit sector are Alaska Regional Hospital and Charter North Star Behavioral

7 Nonprofit Organizations

Employ more than 17% of the *Trends* 100 workforce

Providence Alaska Medical Center	3,027
Lutheran Health Systems	1,090
Tanana Chiefs Conference	609
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	556
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation	523
Valley Hospital	488
Southcentral Foundation	440
Hope Cottages	433
Maniilaq Association	423
Norton Sound Health Corporation	413
Salvation Army - Alaska	357
Ketchikan General Hospital	348
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	334
Assets	312
Fairbanks Native Association	300
Rural Alaska Community Action Program	292

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

System. Hotels are the other big players in the services sector. Hotels' presence on the services list has been stable over the past five years despite the explosive growth in hotel construction. Part of the reason new players have not been added is because many of them are not full-service operators and therefore have relatively small staffs. Part of hotel growth, that taking place under the NANA Marriott JV umbrella, is masked. The JV operates three hotels in Anchorage and one in Kotzebue, but the employment is counted in catering services in the retail sector. The new downtown Marriott in Anchorage could make the *Trends* 100 list in a relatively short time.

Definitions and explanations

To compile the top 100 list, employment data were obtained from the Alaska Quarterly Unemployment Insurance Contributions Report, which every employer in the state with one or more employees must file. Employment figures reported are the total number of active jobs during the payroll period that included the 12th of each month.

Annual average employment is calculated by adding the 12 months of employment reported to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and dividing it by 12.

Total employment of a parent company is not captured if subsidiaries file quarterly reports under separate employer account numbers, and does not appear in the *Trends* 100.

Public Sector Dominates Top Employers When included

Rank	Name of Organization	1999 Employment	Headquarters or Largest Worksite
1	U.S. Uniformed Military	18,684	Anchorage
2	U.S. Government (civilian)	16,872	Anchorage
3	State of Alaska	15,889	Juneau
4	University of Alaska	5,883	Fairbanks
5	Anchorage School District	5,538	Anchorage
6	Municipality of Anchorage	3,160	Anchorage
7	Safeway Stores/Carr Gottstein Foods	3,902	Anchorage
8	Providence Alaska Medical Center	3,027	Anchorage
9	Fred Meyer	2,015	Anchorage
10	Fairbanks North Star Borough School District	1,872	Fairbanks

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

9 Among America's Fortune 500

More than a quarter of *Trends 100* companies are big players nationwide

ARCO Alaska
ATT/Alascom
Anchorage Hilton Hotel
Aramark Leisure Services
Alaska Regional Health Corp.
Burger King
Costco
Federal Express
Fred Meyer
Halliburton Energy Services
JC Penney
Kmart
Williams Express
McDonalds
NANA Marriott, Joint Venture
Nordstrom
Northwest Airlines
Pizza Hut
Safeway Stores
Sea-Land Freight Service
Sears Roebuck
Taco Bell
Tesoro Northstore Company
Tyson Shared Services
United Airlines
Union Oil of California (Unocal)
United Parcel Service (UPS)
Wal-Mart/Sam's Club

Source: *Fortune Magazine*

Employment Numbers Looking Better in 2000

Per capita income figures for 1998 are out

Alaska Employment Scene

by
Neal Fried
Labor Economist

In 1999, Alaska's employment grew by nearly one percent. In May of this year employment growth came in just shy of two percent. Last year the May unemployment rate was 6.7% versus 6.1% this year. (See Exhibit 1.) So, why is this year's economic picture looking a bit better? The primary reason is that some of the negatives in Alaska's economy have turned positive. In 1999, manufacturing, federal government, and the oil industry had employment numbers in the red. By May of this year only manufacturing (timber and seafood processing) was still losing ground.

workforce in Alaska will shrink only slightly. Prior to this announcement it was feared 600-800 more oil producer jobs might be lost.

The 2000 Census is boosting federal government employment

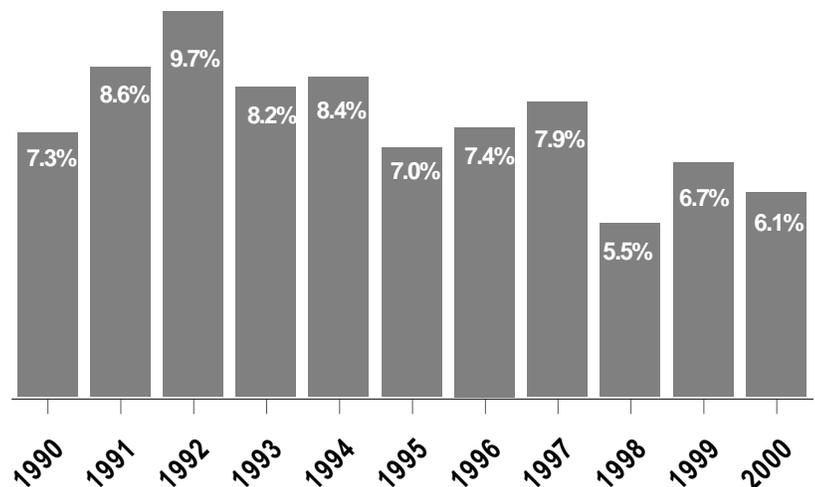
During most of the past decade federal civilian employment has been shrinking, but 2000 will go down as a growth year—even if it is temporary. The growth comes from workers hired for the 2000 Census. A complete count of Alaska's population is a huge undertaking that happens

(continued on page 16)

Oil patch employment bounces back

As a result of the rock bottom oil prices of 1998, employment in the oil industry fell hard last year. Oil prices started climbing again in mid-1999 and continue to remain strong. With the rebound in prices, employment began to recover in 2000. By May, employment had moved back into the black when compared to year-ago levels. Despite the turnaround in the oil patch, fears of large oil industry layoffs still exist because of the move to only one operator for Prudhoe Bay—the oil field responsible for over half of Alaska's production. But BPAmoco, the single operator, recently announced its workforce would increase by more than 500, with most of these new workers coming from Phillips Petroleum's existing Prudhoe Bay staff. This means the combined BPAmoco-Phillips

May Unemployment Rate **1** Near record low for decade



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

2 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

Alaska	preliminary	revised	Changes from:			Municipality of Anchorage	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	5/00	4/00	5/99	5/00	5/99		5/00	5/99	6/98	5/99	6/98
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	286,600	275,600	281,600	11,000	5,000	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	135,100	131,400	132,100	3,700	3,000
Goods-producing	36,300	35,100	36,400	1,200	-100	Goods-producing	12,300	11,300	12,200	1,000	100
Service-producing	250,300	240,500	245,200	9,800	5,100	Service-producing	122,800	120,100	119,900	2,700	2,900
Mining	9,800	9,700	9,700	100	100	Mining	2,700	2,700	2,800	0	-100
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,300	8,300	8,200	0	100	Oil & Gas Extraction	2,600	2,600	2,700	0	-100
Construction	14,300	12,500	13,800	1,800	500	Construction	7,400	6,500	7,300	900	100
Manufacturing	12,200	12,900	12,900	-700	-700	Manufacturing	2,200	2,100	2,100	100	100
Durable Goods	2,800	2,700	3,200	100	-400	Transportation/Comm/Utilities	14,700	14,200	13,500	500	1,200
Lumber & Wood Products	1,600	1,500	1,900	100	-300	Air Transportation	6,200	6,100	5,900	100	300
Nondurable Goods	9,400	10,200	9,700	-800	-300	Communications	3,500	3,400	2,700	100	800
Seafood Processing	6,900	7,600	7,100	-700	-200	Trade	31,600	30,900	31,200	700	400
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	27,800	25,700	26,600	2,100	1,200	Wholesale Trade	6,500	6,300	6,400	200	100
Trucking & Warehousing	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100	Retail Trade	25,100	24,600	24,800	500	300
Water Transportation	2,200	1,600	2,200	600	0	Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	4,700	4,600	4,600	100	100
Air Transportation	9,700	9,300	9,500	400	200	Food Stores	2,700	2,800	2,800	-100	-100
Communications	5,100	5,100	4,400	0	700	Eating & Drinking Places	9,200	8,900	9,000	300	200
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	2,700	2,600	2,600	100	100	Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,700	7,500	7,700	200	0
Trade	58,300	55,600	57,800	2,700	500	Services & Misc.	39,000	38,100	38,000	900	1,000
Wholesale Trade	9,000	8,700	8,900	300	100	Hotels & Lodging Places	3,200	2,900	3,000	300	200
Retail Trade	49,300	46,900	48,900	2,400	400	Business Services	6,100	6,000	6,200	100	-100
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	9,400	9,200	9,100	200	300	Health Services	8,600	8,500	8,200	100	400
Food Stores	6,600	6,600	6,800	0	-200	Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	17,500	16,200	17,000	1,300	500	Social Services	4,000	4,000	3,800	0	200
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	12,800	12,700	12,800	100	0	Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	6,100	5,900	5,900	200	200
Services & Misc.	73,700	70,300	71,600	3,400	2,100	Government	29,800	29,400	29,500	400	300
Hotels & Lodging Places	7,800	6,100	7,500	1,700	300	Federal	10,200	9,800	9,900	400	300
Business Services	8,700	8,400	8,700	300	0	State	8,900	8,800	8,800	100	100
Health Services	16,500	16,400	15,500	100	1,000	Local	10,700	10,800	10,800	-100	-100
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0						
Social Services	8,200	8,100	8,000	100	200						
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	8,200	7,800	7,900	400	300						
Government	77,700	76,200	76,400	1,500	1,300						
Federal	18,300	17,000	17,100	1,300	1,200						
State	22,600	22,600	22,400	0	200						
Local	36,800	36,600	36,900	200	-100						

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 and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

3 Hours and Earnings

For selected industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	preliminary 5/00	revised 4/00	5/99	preliminary 5/00	revised 4/00	5/99	preliminary 5/00	revised 4/00	5/99
Mining	\$1,281.17	\$1,223.51	\$1,257.92	50.4	47.7	48.7	\$25.42	\$25.65	\$25.83
Construction	1,232.10	1,182.79	1,215.07	45.0	44.2	45.8	27.38	26.76	26.53
Manufacturing	506.84	545.02	514.51	36.1	41.7	39.7	14.04	13.07	12.96
Seafood Processing	375.61	416.36	370.82	33.9	40.7	37.8	11.08	10.23	9.81
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	690.18	697.09	645.70	34.7	35.1	35.4	19.89	19.86	18.24
Trade	470.59	467.17	436.59	34.4	34.2	33.1	13.68	13.66	13.19
Wholesale Trade	680.34	646.72	644.92	38.2	37.6	37.3	17.81	17.20	17.29
Retail Trade	435.01	435.46	399.55	33.8	33.6	32.3	12.87	12.96	12.37
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	597.87	630.10	596.16	34.4	35.3	36.8	17.38	17.85	16.20

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 1999

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

4 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

	preliminary		Changes from:			preliminary 5/00	revised 4/00	Changes from:		
	5/00	4/00	5/99	5/00	5/99			5/99	5/00	5/99
Fairbanks										
North Star Borough										
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,050	33,350	34,300	1,700	750					
Goods-producing	3,400	2,800	3,250	600	150					
Service-producing	31,650	30,550	31,050	1,100	600					
Mining	900	850	750	50	150					
Construction	1,900	1,400	1,900	500	0					
Manufacturing	600	550	600	50	0					
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,250	2,950	3,250	300	0					
Trucking & Warehousing	650	600	650	50	0					
Air Transportation	850	850	900	0	-50					
Communications	450	450	450	0	0					
Trade	6,950	6,650	6,950	300	0					
Wholesale Trade	750	750	750	0	0					
Retail Trade	6,200	5,900	6,200	300	0					
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,100	1,050	1,150	50	-50					
Food Stores	700	700	700	0	0					
Eating & Drinking Places	2,250	2,150	2,250	100	0					
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,150	0	50					
Services & Misc.	8,850	8,400	8,650	450	200					
Hotels & Lodging Places	950	650	950	300	0					
Health Services	2,050	2,050	1,900	0	150					
Government	11,400	11,350	11,050	50	350					
Federal	3,600	3,350	3,350	250	250					
State	4,650	4,750	4,600	-100	50					
Local	3,150	3,250	3,100	-100	50					
Southeast Region										
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	37,300	34,400	37,150	2,900	150					
Goods-producing	4,850	4,450	5,000	400	-150					
Service-producing	32,450	29,950	32,150	2,500	300					
Mining	300	300	300	0	0					
Construction	1,800	1,600	1,750	200	50					
Manufacturing	2,750	2,550	2,950	200	-200					
Durable Goods	1,500	1,400	1,700	100	-200					
Lumber & Wood Products	1,200	1,100	1,450	100	-250					
Nondurable Goods	1,250	1,150	1,250	100	0					
Seafood Processing	900	850	950	50	-50					
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,250	2,400	3,300	850	-50					
Trade	6,800	5,950	6,900	850	-100					
Wholesale Trade	600	600	600	0	0					
Retail Trade	6,200	5,350	6,300	850	-100					
Food Stores	1,250	1,200	1,350	50	-100					
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0					
Services & Misc.	8,500	7,750	8,200	750	300					
Health Services	1,750	1,750	1,600	0	150					
Government	12,700	12,650	12,550	50	150					
Federal	2,100	1,850	1,900	250	200					
State	5,300	5,450	5,350	-150	-50					
Local	5,300	5,350	5,300	-50	0					
Northern Region										
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,050	15,200	14,600	-150	450					
Goods-producing	5,350	5,550	4,900	-200	450					
Service-producing	9,700	9,650	9,700	50	0					
Mining	4,650	4,650	4,450	0	200					
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,200	4,200	4,050	0	150					
Government	4,450	4,400	4,450	50	0					
Federal	150	150	150	0	0					
State	300	300	300	0	0					
Local	4,000	3,950	4,000	50	0					
Interior Region										
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	41,400	38,350	40,700	3,050	700					
Goods-producing	3,750	3,100	3,600	650	150					
Service-producing	37,650	35,250	37,100	2,400	550					
Mining	1,050	1,000	900	50	150					
Construction	2,050	1,500	2,050	550	0					
Manufacturing	650	600	650	50	0					
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	4,050	3,550	4,050	500	0					
Trade	8,150	7,450	8,150	700	0					
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,300	1,250	1,250	50	50					
Services & Misc.	10,250	9,350	10,050	900	200					
Hotels & Lodging Places	1,400	800	1,400	600	0					
Government	13,900	13,650	13,600	250	300					
Federal	4,250	3,950	4,050	300	200					
State	4,950	4,950	4,900	0	50					
Local	4,700	4,750	4,650	-50	50					
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region										
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	148,450	144,300	144,550	4,150	3,900					
Goods-producing	13,650	12,450	13,350	1,200	300					
Service-producing	134,800	131,850	131,200	2,950	3,600					
Mining	2,750	2,700	2,800	50	-50					
Construction	8,600	7,500	8,300	1,100	300					
Manufacturing	2,300	2,250	2,250	50	50					
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	15,750	15,250	14,550	500	1,200					
Trade	35,000	34,350	34,400	650	600					
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	8,200	8,100	8,250	100	-50					
Services & Misc.	42,550	41,400	41,250	1,150	1,300					
Government	33,300	32,750	32,750	550	550					
Federal	10,500	10,000	10,000	500	500					
State	9,850	9,700	9,650	150	200					
Local	12,950	13,050	13,100	-100	-150					
Southwest Region										
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	16,250	17,100	16,500	-850	-250					
Goods-producing	3,100	4,300	3,400	-1,200	-300					
Service-producing	13,150	12,800	13,100	1,350	50					
Seafood Processing	2,900	4,100	3,200	-1,200	-300					
Government	6,050	5,800	6,050	250	0					
Federal	350	350	300	0	50					
State	500	500	500	0	0					
Local	5,200	4,950	5,250	250	-50					
Gulf Coast Region										
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,250	26,250	28,000	2,000	250					
Goods-producing	5,950	5,300	6,050	650	-100					
Service-producing	22,300	20,950	21,950	1,350	350					
Mining	1,050	1,050	1,150	0	-100					
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,050	1,000	1,150	50	-100					
Construction	1,200	900	1,150	300	50					
Manufacturing	3,700	3,350	3,750	350	-50					
Seafood Processing	2,800	2,450	2,800	350	0					
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,550	2,350	2,550	200	0					
Trade	5,700	5,250	5,650	450	50					
Wholesale Trade	650	600	650	50	0					
Retail Trade	5,050	4,650	5,000	400	50					
Eating & Drinking Places	1,750	1,550	1,700	200	50					
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	850	850	850	0	0					
Services & Misc.	6,050	5,600	5,950	450	100					
Health Services	1,150	1,150	1,100	0	50					
Government	7,150	6,900	6,950	250	200					
Federal	900	750	700	150	200					
State	1,650	1,600	1,650	50	0					
Local	4,600	4,550	4,600	50	0					

(continued from page 13)

once every ten years. To accomplish the population count, the U.S. Census Bureau assembled a sizeable workforce early this year. In early February, while the population in "remote Alaska" was being counted, the census workforce reached 291. By March, 922 census workers were on the federal payroll. In May, the workforce peaked at 1,447 when the bureau sent enumerators out to track down the residents who did not return their questionnaires. In June, census employment numbers will fall and in July most of the work will be complete.

Northern region improves and Fairbanks and Anchorage/Mat-Su carry the state

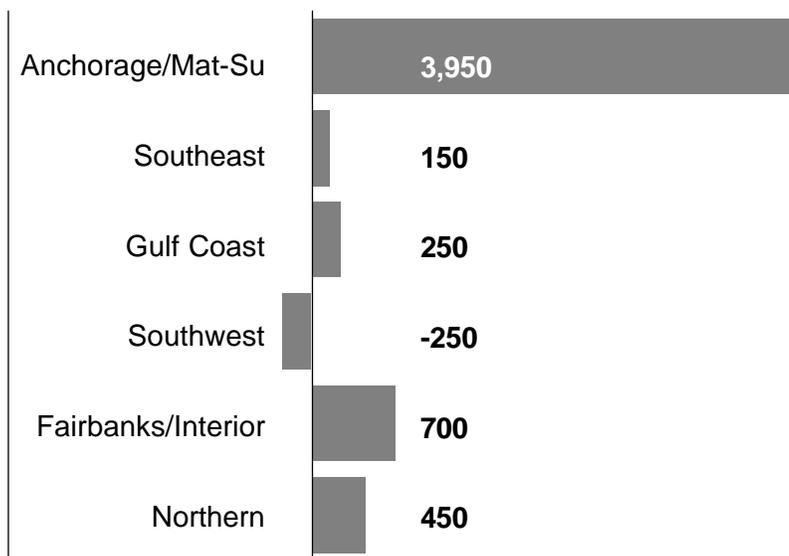
In May, only the Southwest region's employment numbers came in below year-ago levels. (See Exhibit 5). Most interesting was the fact that the Northern region's numbers turned positive. Like the oil industry numbers, which largely drive

Northern's economy, the region's employment count went positive in May after fifteen months of losses. Fairbanks' employment numbers also perked up in 2000. Last year employment grew by 1.4%, and in May of this year, over-the-year employment growth ran just over two percent. A healthy construction season, an increase in North Slope activity, continued growth in services, and a large Census 2000 workforce placed Fairbanks comfortably in the black. The Anchorage/Mat-Su employment story is very similar to Fairbanks'. Southeast and the Gulf Coast's numbers are largely positive because of Census 2000 activity. When the census work is done, both of these regions could drift back into negative territory.

Income varies widely in Alaska

Alaska Economic Trends last month analyzed the state's 1999 per capita income numbers released by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. This month, the bureau released the 1998 per capita figures for all boroughs and census areas in Alaska. Although these data are a bit more dated than the statewide information, they provide insight into the state's different regions and point at the disparity in income. (See Exhibit 6).

5 Most Regions Show Job Growth Jobs added May 1999-May 2000



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

Per capita income figures are calculated by dividing Alaska's total personal income by its entire resident population. Because of their inclusiveness, these data are often considered a good measure of economic well being. Per capita income is calculated for every state, county and metro area in the country, so national comparisons are simple. But such income information should be observed carefully and in context. These data represent averages, not medians and do not offer insight into income distribution. Demographics also affect per capita income data. The number of dependents in a family, family size, age, large student and military populations, participation in the workforce and other factors influence income levels. But when all is said and done, the economic opportunities of the different regions explain most of the variation in per capita income data.

Many of the state's lowest per capita incomes are found in rural Alaska. In fact, areas where per capita income is 70 percent or less of the statewide average are all rural but one. These are areas where economic opportunities are scarce. They include areas such as Wade Hampton, Bethel, Yukon-Koyukuk, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan and the Lake and Peninsula Borough. These areas are for the most part dominated by very small communities where there is little private basic sector activity. Transfer income

from the government looms large in these places. For example, in Bethel, 28 percent of income comes in the form of transfer payments, and this figure goes as high as 45 percent in the Wade Hampton region. Wade Hampton is one of the few rural regions in the state consisting of small

Per Capita Income by Area Alaska 1994-1998

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Percent Change 1994-98	Percent of U.S. in 1998	Percent of Alaska in 1998
United States	\$22,581	\$23,562	\$24,651	\$25,924	\$27,203	20%	100%	98%
State of Alaska	\$25,253	\$25,798	\$26,057	\$26,990	\$27,835	10%	102%	100%
Aleutians East Borough	21,762	22,861	22,826	23,323	24,069	11%	88%	86%
Aleutians West Census Area	30,297	33,240	30,744	27,353	28,356	-6%	104%	102%
Anchorage, Municipality	29,140	29,533	30,295	31,622	32,659	12%	120%	117%
Bethel Census Area	16,329	16,474	16,446	17,013	17,524	7%	64%	63%
Bristol Bay Borough	45,740	47,570	43,771	43,731	43,439	-5%	160%	156%
Denali Borough	23,375	25,084	26,908	29,047	32,152	38%	118%	116%
Dillingham Census Area	22,054	22,714	22,873	24,216	25,046	14%	92%	90%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	22,019	23,214	23,325	24,605	25,341	15%	93%	91%
Haines Borough	27,068	28,158	28,878	29,076	30,059	11%	110%	108%
Juneau Borough	30,594	31,723	31,749	32,454	33,516	10%	123%	120%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	23,371	23,933	23,683	24,376	25,120	7%	92%	90%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	30,245	31,200	30,905	30,849	31,803	5%	117%	114%
Kodiak Island Borough	21,567	22,290	22,486	23,449	24,166	12%	89%	87%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	16,305	16,862	16,919	17,664	18,419	13%	68%	66%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	18,174	18,256	18,140	18,281	18,752	3%	69%	67%
Nome Census Area	18,230	19,025	19,308	20,151	20,508	12%	75%	74%
North Slope Borough	27,899	28,753	28,234	27,670	29,271	5%	108%	105%
Northwest Arctic Borough	18,017	18,396	18,804	19,971	20,700	15%	76%	74%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	17,829	18,294	17,239	18,217	18,278	3%	67%	66%
Sitka Borough	24,171	25,759	26,620	26,820	28,480	18%	105%	102%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	21,881	21,987	22,644	24,398	24,086	10%	89%	87%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	19,869	20,039	20,392	21,514	21,614	9%	79%	78%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	26,776	26,106	26,396	27,187	28,256	6%	104%	102%
Wade Hampton Census Area	10,703	11,018	11,747	12,427	12,684	19%	47%	46%
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	25,427	24,489	24,319	25,292	25,983	2%	96%	93%
Yakutat Borough	24,373	23,879	23,352	25,409	27,352	12%	101%	98%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	15,804	17,893	17,450	17,744	18,005	14%	66%	65%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

7 Unemployment Rates

By region and census area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	preliminary	revised	
	5/00	4/00	5/99
United States	3.9	3.7	4.0
Alaska Statewide	6.1	6.6	6.7
Anch/Mat-Su Region	4.9	5.3	5.4
Municipality of Anchorage	4.4	4.6	4.7
Mat-Su Borough	7.3	8.3	8.6
Gulf Coast Region	8.6	9.9	10.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough	8.7	11.1	10.4
Kodiak Island Borough	8.8	6.4	14.1
Valdez-Cordova	7.8	9.6	8.1
Interior Region	6.4	7.1	6.7
Denali Borough	5.8	10.2	6.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.6	6.3	6.1
Southeast Fairbanks	9.9	11.4	8.9
Yukon-Koyukuk	17.4	17.3	17.1
Northern Region	12.0	10.8	12.1
Nome	13.6	12.0	13.5
North Slope Borough	9.2	8.0	8.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.9	13.2	15.3
Southeast Region	5.8	7.1	6.4
Haines Borough	6.8	11.6	11.0
Juneau Borough	4.2	4.5	4.5
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	6.4	8.6	6.8
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	12.2	14.0	13.8
Sitka Borough	4.5	4.9	5.4
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	4.9	7.0	5.1
Wrangell-Petersburg	7.7	10.2	8.1
Yakutat Borough	13.1	13.0	12.2
Southwest Region	11.7	9.9	10.6
Aleutians East Borough	4.0	2.7	5.3
Aleutians West	8.6	6.0	7.5
Bethel	11.8	9.8	10.7
Bristol Bay Borough	8.3	11.3	5.9
Dillingham	10.6	9.9	9.7
Lake & Peninsula Borough	11.4	10.2	9.0
Wade Hampton	21.0	18.2	19.4
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	4.1	3.9	4.2
Alaska Statewide	6.1	6.6	6.6

March 1999 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

communities only. No large regional hub such as Bethel or Kotzebue skews the income picture for the entire region. Because of this, the Wade Hampton income profile is a good representation of much of "village Alaska". Wade Hampton's per capita income is less than half of the state and national average. If an adjustment for the cost-of-living were to be made for these rural areas, the economic well being represented by the numbers would fall even further. But it also has to be said that these numbers reflect only cash income. Subsistence activity, a prevalent substitute for cash income in rural areas, is not accounted for in personal income data.

There are plenty of exceptions to this story. The area with the highest per capita income in the state is in rural Alaska—the Bristol Bay Borough. Other rural areas of the state with above average per capita incomes include the Denali Borough, the North Slope Borough, and the Aleutians West Census Area. All of these areas have rich sources of basic sector activity that include fishing, tourism, coal mining, the military, and the oil industry.

Urban areas with below average per capita incomes also exist in the state. These include the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. In Fairbanks the reason may be the large university student population, whose income tends to be meager. The large military population is also probably an important factor. A full quarter of Fairbanks' population consists of military and dependents—the biggest concentration of military population in the state. And many of the benefits military personnel receive are in-kind and not accounted for in their personal income. They include housing, medical care, recreational facilities, and other services. A bigger puzzle is the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's very low per capita income. Lower wages and higher unemployment may to some extent explain the area's low figures. But it is also possible that income may be understated because income earned outside the borough, which is considerable, may not be fully accounted for.

During the past five years only one area in the state had per capita income growth greater than the national average—the Denali Borough. This robust growth may be explained partially by the construction of the \$256 million Healy Clean Coal power plant from 1994 through 1997. The Denali Borough has enjoyed above average incomes for a number of years because of the good paying jobs tied to the Usibelli Coal mine and Clear Air Force Base. The borough's visitor industry has also been very dynamic.

Employer Resources

Seafood industry employers may complete the on-line Job Order Form and submit a Job Order electronically to the Seafood unit, where staff will review and post the job opening under Current Openings. Current seafood processing and related positions are posted here by location.

The screenshot shows the 'Employer Connection' page of the Alaska Job Center Network. The page features a navigation menu with links for 'Alaska Employer Handbook', 'Employment Related Posters', 'Unemployment Insurance', 'Vocational Rehabilitation', 'Wage and Hour', and 'Workers Compensation'. The main content area includes a 'Welcome to the Alaska Job Center Network Employer Connection' header, a 'Jobs' logo, and a 'Seafood Industry Employers' section. A 'Job Order Options' box provides contact information for the Business Services Unit (1-888-830-4473) and links to the 'Job Order Form' (marked as 'UPDATED'), 'Job Order Fax Form', and 'Contact an Alaska Job Center'. A 'Welfare-to-Work' section offers recruitment services for clients, with a contact number of 1-888-838-JOBS (5627).

The screenshot displays the 'Seafood Job Order Form' in a Netscape browser window. The form is titled 'labor.state.ak.us Job Seeker Employer Worker Seafood Job Order Form'. It includes a disclaimer: 'Use this form to submit job orders and list your job openings on Alaska's Job Bank. This form will be submitted via email in a non-encrypted format. The information you submit is not secure and may be intercepted. To place a job order by other means, send email to Seafood_Jobs@labor.state.ak.us or call 1-800-473-0688. You may also contact any Alaska Job Center. Your job order will be reviewed and may be rephrased to fit our system format before it is posted.' The form contains several input fields: 'Employer Account Number' (with a note that it is used for Alaska Quarterly Contribution Reports), 'Business/Company Name', 'Contact Person', 'Telephone', 'Fax', 'Email', and 'Address'. Arrows from the main website screenshot point to the 'Job Order Form' link and the 'Seafood Job Order Form' title.