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TRENDS

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Education in Alaska

Alaska Department of Labor
and Workforce Development

Tony Knowles
Governor of Alaska

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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Contents:

Education in Alaska	3
Attainment in higher education declines, but remains above national average	
Census Issues Socio-Economic Data	13
Census data covers broad range of topics in detail at various geographic levels	
<i>Employment Scene</i>	18
September Qualifies as "Interesting Times" Permanent Fund reverberates from stock market fall, business rides out West Coast dock strike	
Index of <i>Trends</i> Articles for 2002	22

Attainment in higher education declines, but remains above national average

The everyday view of education focuses on the young and what they are learning in school. This article presents an historical perspective of Alaska's population and the changes in the educational profile of generations. Like tree rings, a population's education profile records the climate that affects it. When socio-economic conditions are favorable, educational levels tend to rise. When they are not, this growth is stunted.

The availability or absence of a well-educated population has a profound impact on the ability of a community to attract and retain economic resources. Alaska's economic strength and vitality depend on the capacity to build and maintain a skilled and educated workforce. If the number of skilled workers declines, Alaska will be unable to compete with other states in attracting industry and creating new employment opportunities, and well educated Alaskans will look outside the state for employment.

GI bill, pipeline, baby boom change the educational landscape

Many factors can rapidly change the educational profile of a community, including changing socio-economic conditions and migration. When new, younger workers are attracted to Alaska due to rapid economic growth, they tend to come with a higher level of education than the resident older

population. During the 1970s and early 1980s as pipeline construction and the oil boom fueled rapid economic growth, a windfall of well educated "baby boomers" came to Alaska. Prior to the end of World War II and the GI bill, a college education was uncommon in America; consequently, populations with larger proportions of older adults show a lower educational level than relatively younger communities.

The 2000 census gives an up-to-date picture of Alaska's ever-changing educational profile. Alaska has ranked first among states in high school

Educational Attainment } Alaska and U.S.

Persons age 25 and over

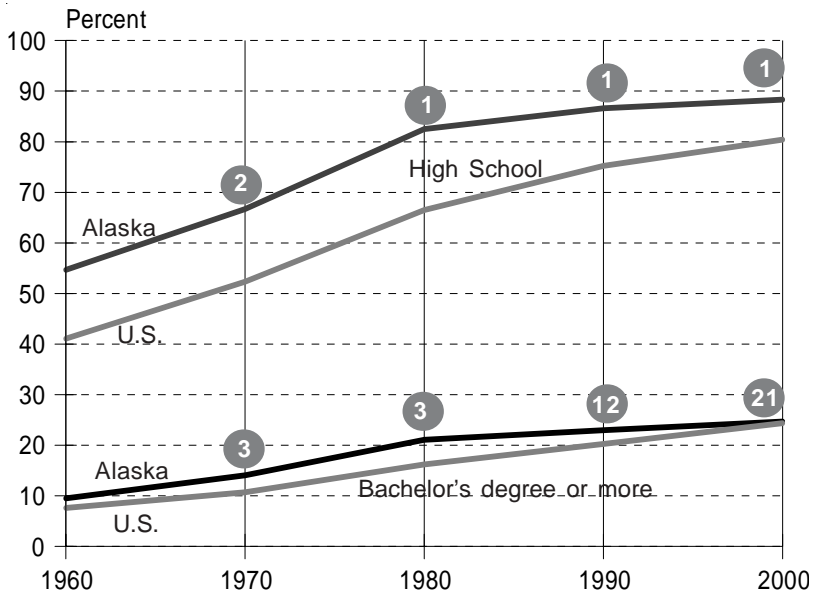
	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
<u>High School diploma or more</u>					
United States	80.4%	75.2%	66.5%	52.3%	41.1%
Alaska	88.3%	86.6%	82.5%	66.7%	54.7%
Alaska Rank	1	1	1	2	—
<u>Bachelor's degree or more</u>					
United States	24.4%	20.3%	16.2%	10.7%	7.6%
Alaska	24.7%	23.0%	21.1%	14.1%	9.5%
Alaska Rank	21	12	3	3	—

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

2 Education Level Completed

U.S. and Alaska, 1960–2000

Persons age 25 and over



1 Alaska Rank among states

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

educational attainment since 1980. This is largely due to the state's relatively small older population and the large influx of young adults that came during the pipeline era. The percentage of Alaskans 25 years and older who hold a high school diploma or better has increased steadily from 54.7 percent at the time of statehood to 88.3 percent at the turn of the century. (See Exhibits 1 and 2.) During that same period, the corresponding figure for the U.S. rose from 41.1 percent to 80.4 percent.

Educational attainment in Alaska and U.S.

Alaska compares favorably with the nation in the percentage of its population that hold high school diplomas (or equivalent), bachelor's or master's degrees. (See Exhibit 3.) However, at the highest educational levels, Alaska's population has a below average share of professional and doctoral degree holders: only 1.8 percent of Alaskans have

3 Educational Attainment by Sex

Alaska 2000

Persons age 25 and over

	Total	% of Total	Male	% of Males	% Male	Female	% of Females	% Female
College, Graduate and Professional training:	93,807	24.7	47,150	24.1	50.3	46,657	25.4	49.7
Doctoral degree	3,288	0.9	2,114	1.1	64.3	1,174	0.6	35.7
Professional school degree	6,738	1.8	4,235	2.2	62.9	2,503	1.4	37.1
Master's degree	22,585	6.0	11,252	5.8	49.8	11,333	6.2	50.2
Bachelor's degree	61,196	16.1	29,549	15.1	48.3	31,647	17.2	51.7
Some college training:	135,655	35.7	68,160	34.8	50.2	67,495	36.7	49.8
Associate degree	27,213	7.2	13,528	6.9	49.7	13,685	7.4	50.3
Some college, 1 or more years, no degree	73,480	19.4	37,771	19.3	51.4	35,709	19.4	48.6
Some college less than 1 year	34,962	9.2	16,861	8.6	48.2	18,101	9.8	51.8
High school graduate or less:	150,094	39.5	80,366	41.1	53.5	69,728	37.9	46.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	105,812	27.9	57,375	29.3	54.2	48,437	26.3	45.8
Some High School, no diploma	28,619	7.5	15,407	7.9	53.8	13,212	7.2	46.2
Less than 9 years	15,663	4.1	7,584	3.9	48.4	8,079	4.4	51.6
Total Population 25 years and over	379,556	100.0	195,676	100.0	51.6	183,880	100.0	48.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

professional degrees compared to 2.6 percent for the U.S., and only 0.9 percent have doctoral degrees, compared to a national average of 1.4 percent. These differences are likely due to labor market forces and the occupational mix in Alaska versus the rest of the U.S.

Alaska loses ground in holders of advanced degrees, relatively

Although the percentage of Alaskans holding bachelor, graduate or professional degrees increased during the 1970 – 2000 period, Alaska lost ground when compared to other states. In 1970, Alaska was third highest in its proportion of people holding bachelor’s or advanced degrees. Alaska’s relative position began slipping following the 1986 oil market collapse. By 1990 Alaska ranked 12th. In 2000 the state slipped to 21st place, with 24.7 percent of the population holding a bachelor’s degree or higher, barely above the national average of 24.4 percent.

Both internal and external forces contributed to Alaska’s inability to maintain its rank among states as one of the highest in advanced degree attainment. The nation’s high-tech, high-wage, growth of the 1990s largely passed Alaska by, resulting in fewer highly educated migrants to the state. During the 1990-2000 decade, Alaska saw a loss of high paying, traditionally education-intensive jobs in the federal government and oil and gas industry sectors. The pace and nature of future economic growth will determine whether Alaska will retain its post-secondary graduates as well as attract graduates from the lower 48.

Fewer Alaskans have less than 9 years of school

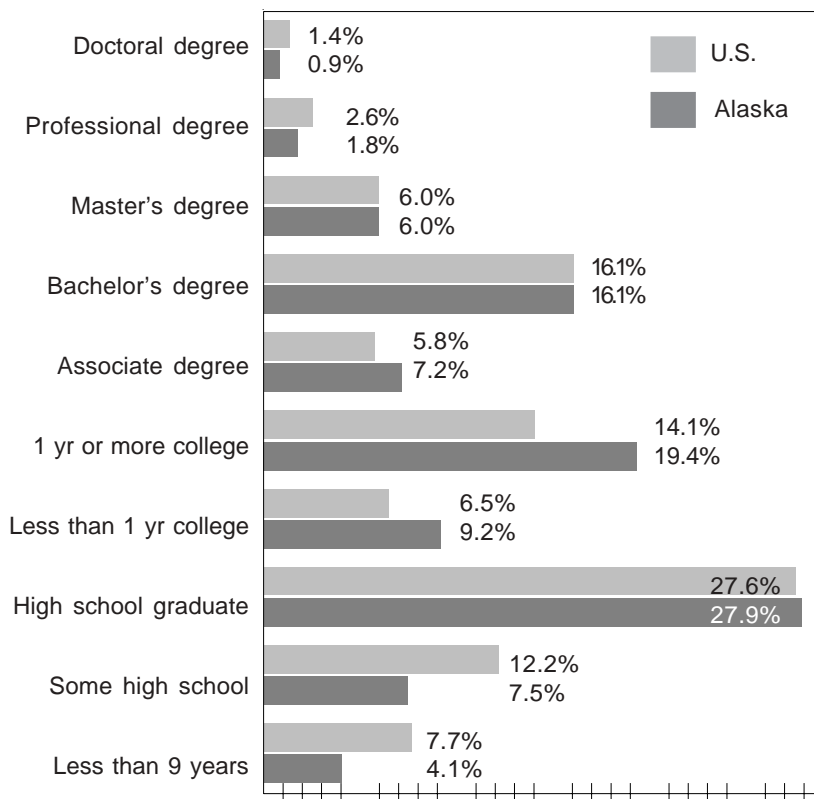
In 2000, 4.1 percent of Alaskans had less than 9 years of education compared to 7.7 percent for the U.S.; and 7.5 percent of Alaskans had not completed high school compared to 12.2 percent for the U.S. as a whole. (See Exhibits 3 and 4.)

These differences may be due to the relative youth of Alaska’s population, but are more likely due to the nation’s higher dropout rates.

Alaska and the U.S. differ most in the area of post-secondary education: 19.4 percent of Alaskans have more than one year of college but no degree, compared 14.1 percent for the U.S. This may suggest that Alaskans are better educated than the U.S. population at all levels below bachelor’s degree. It depicts substantial numbers of Alaskans doing some college level work, but not obtaining degrees. Some of these students may have earned technical certificates.

Education Level Completed 2000 Percent distribution, Alaska and U.S. 4

Persons age 25 and over



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational attainment for men and women

Few educational differences exist between men and women. Women have slightly higher overall education levels. The greatest difference is in advanced degrees, where two-thirds of all doctoral and professional degrees are held by men. (See Exhibit 3.)

Educational trends by age, 1990-2000

For insight into the educational contribution made by different generations of Alaskans we can compare the education of different age groups. (See Exhibits 5 – 10.)

Census numbers show that the average educational level of Alaskans has increased over the past decade. In 1990, there were 102,219 Alaskans age 25 to 34 with a high school or better education, while in 2000, this age group (now 35 to 44 years old) numbered 104,878 persons. During the same period, the number of persons with bachelor's degree or better among these age groups increased from 20,500 to 26,548 and the share with bachelor's degrees or better increased from 18.1 percent to 22.9 percent. Either a substantial number of students went on to complete their bachelor's degrees during the decade, or people with bachelor's degrees moved into the state.

5 Educational Attainment by Age Alaska 1990 and 2000

	2000				1990			
	Total 18 Yrs +	High School and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group	Total 18 Yrs +	High School and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group
18 to 24 years	56,869	43,748	11.5	76.9	54,926	44,343	13.7	80.7
25 to 34 years	89,209	81,282	21.4	91.1	113,474	102,219	31.5	90.1
35 to 44 years	115,694	104,878	27.7	90.7	102,490	95,265	29.4	93.0
35 to 54 years	—	—	—	—	158,516	145,703	—	91.9
55 years or more	—	—	—	—	51,439	34,243	—	66.6
45 to 64 years	139,560	125,452	33.1	89.9	85,306	69,378	21.4	81.3
65 years or more	35,093	23,662	6.2	67.4	22,159	13,323	4.1	60.1
Total 18 years old or over	436,425	379,022	100.0		378,355	324,528	100.0	
	Total 18 Yrs +	Bachelor's Degree and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group	Total 18 Yrs +	Bachelor's Degree and +	% of Education Level	% of Age Group
18 to 24 years	56,869	2,273	2.4	4.0	54,926	2,281	3.0	4.2
25 to 34 years	89,209	19,012	19.8	21.3	113,474	20,500	26.7	18.1
35 to 44 years	115,694	26,548	27.6	22.9	102,490	29,775	38.8	29.1
35 to 54 years	—	—	—	—	158,516	45,652	—	28.8
55 years or more	—	—	—	—	51,439	8,345	—	16.2
45 to 64 years	139,560	42,179	43.9	30.2	85,306	21,370	27.8	25.1
65 years or more	35,093	6,068	6.3	17.3	22,159	2,852	3.7	12.9
Total 18 years old or over	436,425	96,080	50.2		378,355	76,778	100.0	31.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In 1990, there were 8,345 persons 55 and over with a bachelor's degree or better, accounting for 16.2 percent of the age group. In 2000, this group had shrunk to 6,068, but as a percentage had increased to 17.3 percent. Deaths accounted for 35 percent of the reduction of the 65 years and over cohort, and migration the other 65 percent. This apparent anomaly is the result of the fact that persons with less education tend to have higher mortality rates than those better educated. Also, larger numbers of educated Alaskans may have remained in Alaska after retirement.

Time molds age groups

Another way of looking at the changing educational levels of Alaska's population is to look directly at the relative size of the age groups over time. Between 1990 and 2000, the number of persons 18-24 at any level of education remained a fairly constant share of the population.

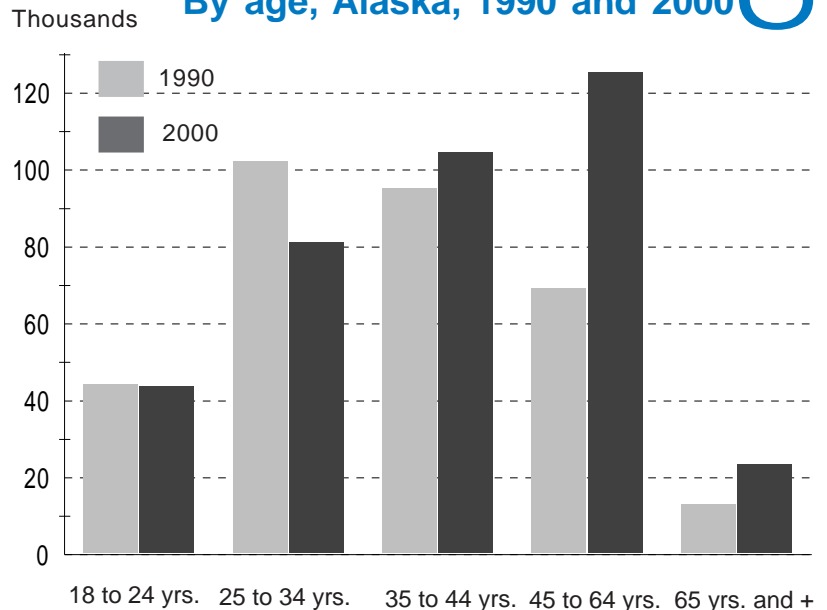
The large influx of "baby boomers" in the late 1970s and early 1980s has had lasting impact. In 1990, 61 percent of all holders of a high school diploma or better, and 66 percent with a bachelor's degree or better were between 25 and 44 years old. Because no similar influx of population followed this brief boom, by 2000 only 49 percent of all persons with high school diplomas or better and 47 percent with bachelor's degrees or better were age 25 to 44. Over half of all persons with bachelor's, graduate or professional degrees were over 45 in 2000.

Smaller share of Alaskans lack high school diploma

One last observation from the age data involves the percent of the population with less than a high school diploma. Alaska's proportion of persons with less than a high school diploma is substantially below the national average, and that proportion has declined in most age groups over the decade.

High School Education or more

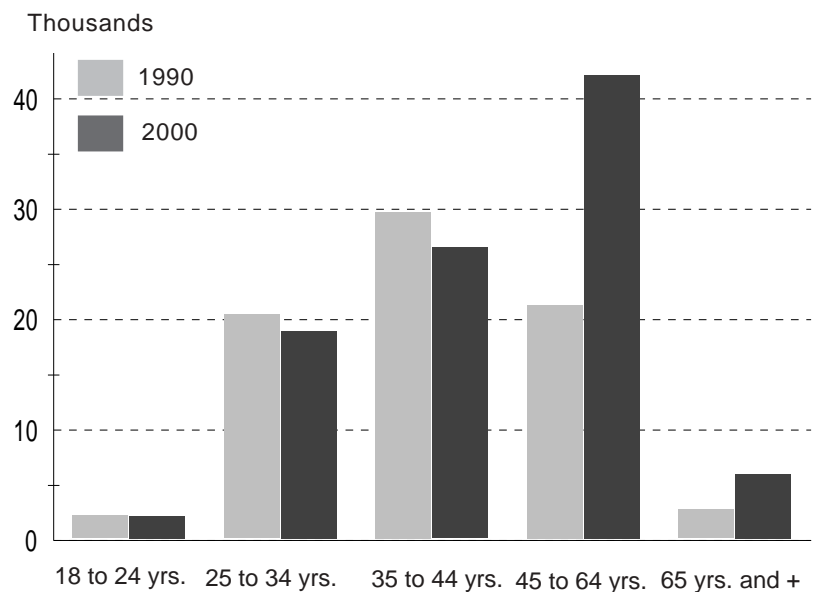
By age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

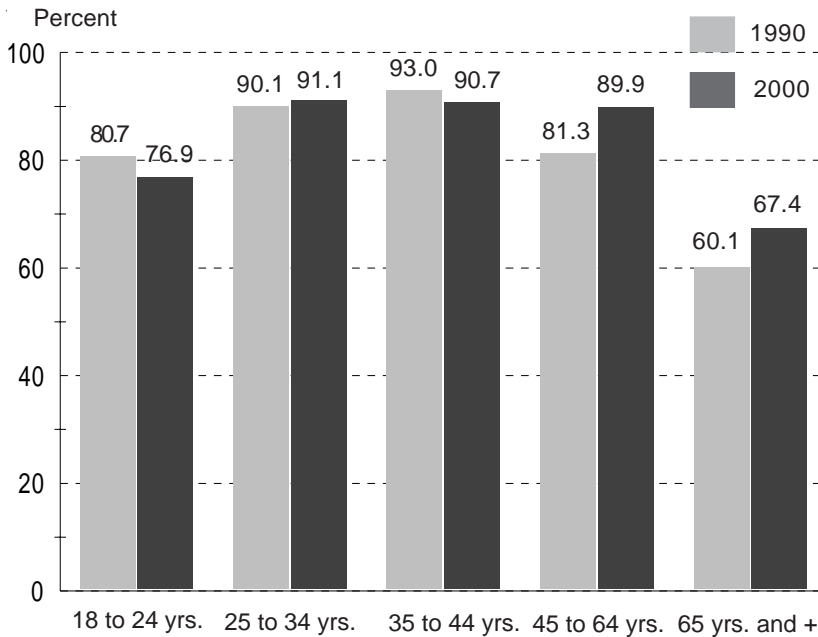
Holders of Advanced Degrees

By age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



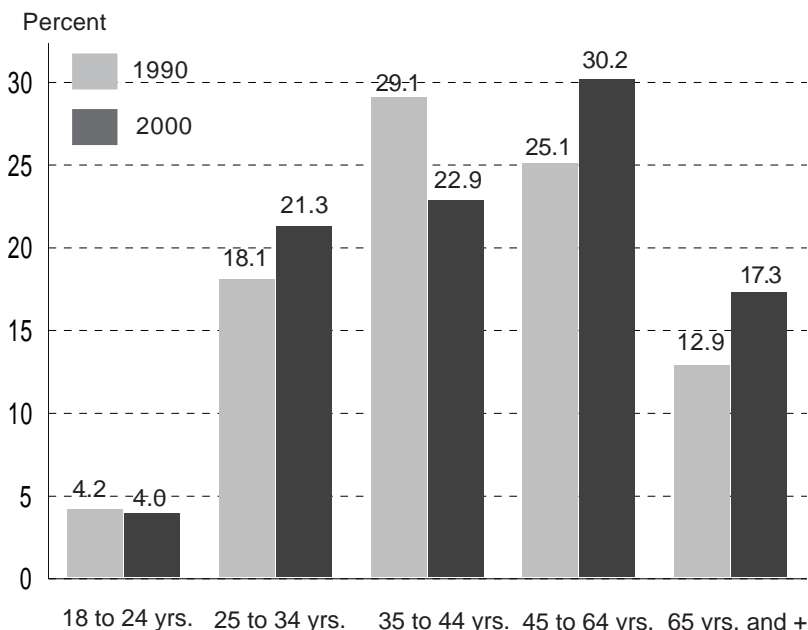
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

8 High School Education or more Percent by age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

9 Percent with Advanced Degrees By age, Alaska, 1990 and 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Two age groups are exceptions: ages 35 to 44, where the proportion increased from 7.0 percent in 1990 to 9.3 percent in 2000, and ages 18 to 24 where the proportion increased from 19.2 percent in 1990 to 23.1 percent in 2000.

Geographic distribution of education

Education levels vary across the state. (See Exhibits 12 and 13.) In both 1990 and 2000, the rural, mainly Alaska Native areas have the lowest proportions of persons with a high school diploma or better. In 2000, the Northern, Southwestern and Interior areas averaged about 72 percent of the population with a high school diploma or better, compared to the statewide average of about 87 percent.

However, these rural areas have made the greatest gains in educational attainment during the past decade. These areas gained more than six percentage points for those with a high school diploma or better since 1990, compared to a gain of only one percentage point statewide. Southeast and Valdez-Cordova gained over five percentage points. In contrast, Anchorage Municipality, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Southeast Fairbanks census area, Bristol Bay Borough and Aleutians West census area, all declined in their percentage of persons who had a high school diploma or better during the last decade. Aleutians West is not comparable because of population loss due to the closing of Adak Naval Station.

Education by race and ethnicity

Statistics on education by race and ethnicity are shown in Exhibits 11 and 14. Statewide the proportion of the population 25 years and over with a high school diploma or better in 2000 was 88.3%.

Exact comparison of 1990 and 2000 statistics are not possible because, for the first time, the 2000 questionnaire allowed for the choice of multiple races. Since 1990, the percentage obtaining

advanced degrees has increased by 1.7 percent statewide. Alaska Natives or American Indians showed the largest increase, almost 9 percentage points for the decade. Whites increased by 1.4 percentage points while Black or African Americans showed no change. In contrast, Asians and Hispanics both declined by over 2 percentage points since 1990. Higher immigration for these two groups in the 1990s may have contributed to this decline.

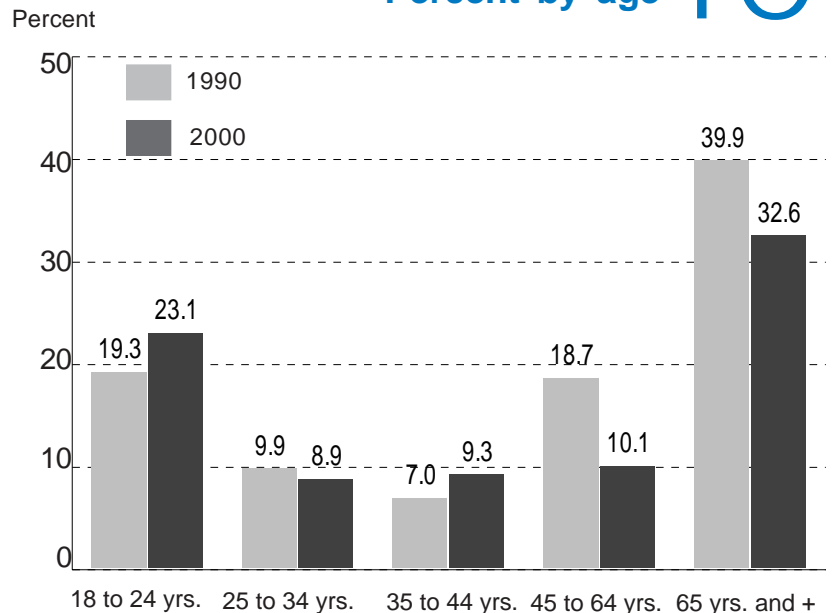
In 2000, the statewide proportion of population with a bachelor's or better was 24.7 percent. For Whites it was 29.3 percent, Asians 21.2 percent, Black or African American 14.9 percent, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 9.7 percent and Alaska Native or American Indian 6.0 percent.

The statewide change in bachelor's degree or better since 1990 is 1.7 percentage points. Whites increased the most with 2.5 percentage points; Alaska Native by 1.7 percentage points; Blacks or African Americans increased by 0.8, and Hispanics by 0.7 percentage points. Asians had almost no change with a -0.1 percentage point decline.

Conclusions

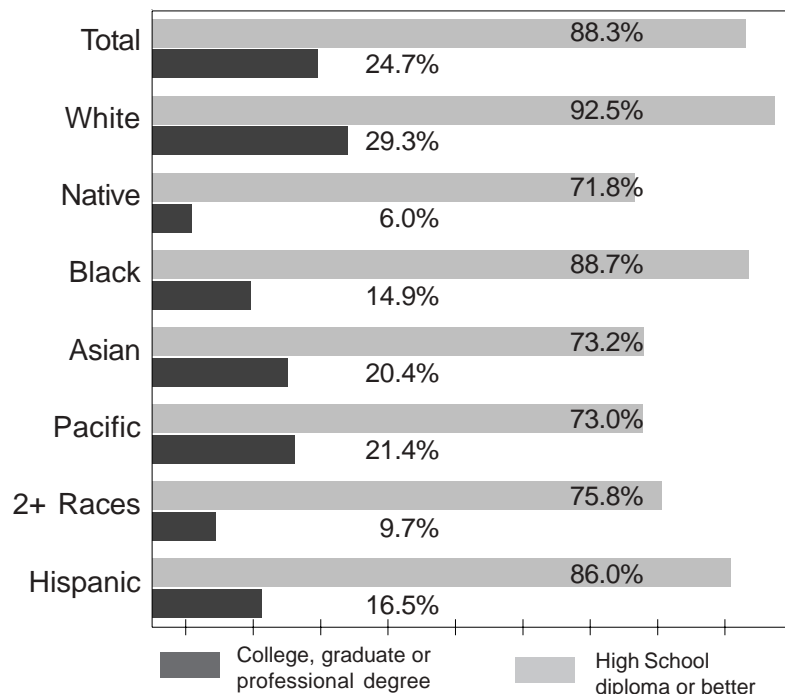
Alaska has prospered for the last quarter of a century in part due to large numbers of well-educated persons attracted to the state by high salaries and job opportunities associated with the oil boom. Although Alaska's overall education levels have continued to improve in absolute terms since that time, the state has lost ground relative to the rest of the U.S due to changing economic conditions and the age profile of the state. As substantial numbers of the well educated "pipeline generation" retire, Alaska will face challenges attracting and retaining a well educated workforce.

Less Than High School Grad 10 Percent by age



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational Attainment 11 By race and ethnicity, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

12 Educational Attainment by Region and Census Area

Persons age 18 and older, Alaska, 1990 and 2000

	2000		1990		2000			1990			
	Total	Share of State	Total	Change in Number	Less than High School Diploma	Per-cent	Share of State	Less than High School Diploma	Per-cent	Change in Number	Change in %
Alaska	436,425	100.0	378,355	58,070	57,403	13.2	100.0	53,827	14.2	3,576	-1.1
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	224,874	51.5	185,835	39,039	26,220	11.7	45.7	20,492	11.0	5,728	0.6
Anchorage Borough	184,645	42.3	159,923	24,722	20,586	11.1	35.9	16,979	10.6	3,607	0.5
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	40,229	9.2	25,912	14,317	5,634	14.0	9.8	3,513	13.6	2,121	0.4
Gulf Coast Region	51,359	11.8	43,672	7,687	6,868	13.4	12.0	6,743	15.4	125	-2.1
Kenai Peninsula Borough	34,806	8.0	27,398	7,408	4,531	13.0	7.9	4,063	14.8	468	-1.8
Kodiak Island Borough	9,387	2.2	9,213	174	1,452	15.5	2.5	1,467	15.9	-15	-0.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	7,166	1.6	7,061	105	885	12.3	1.5	1,213	17.2	-328	-4.8
Interior Region	67,797	15.5	62,842	4,955	7,510	11.1	13.1	7,742	12.3	-232	-1.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	57,958	13.3	53,523	4,435	5,581	9.6	9.7	5,766	10.8	-185	-1.1
Southeast Fairbanks CA	4,149	1.0	3,797	352	630	15.2	1.1	522	13.7	108	1.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,690	1.3	5,522	168	1,299	22.8	2.3	1,454	26.3	-155	-3.5
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	4,252	1.0	—	—	1,175	27.6	2.0	—	—	—	—
Denali Borough	1,438	0.3	—	—	124	8.6	0.2	—	—	—	—
Northern Region	14,586	3.3	12,324	2,262	3,908	26.8	6.8	4,221	34.3	-313	-7.5
Nome Census Area	5,795	1.3	5,126	669	1,590	27.4	2.8	1,778	34.7	-188	-7.2
North Slope Borough	4,564	1.0	3,727	837	1,070	23.4	1.9	1,199	32.2	-129	-8.7
Northwest Arctic Borough	4,227	1.0	3,471	756	1,248	29.5	2.2	1,244	35.8	4	-6.3
Southeast Region	52,627	12.1	48,090	4,537	5,912	11.2	10.3	7,545	15.7	-1,633	-4.5
Haines Borough	1,773	0.4	1,521	252	212	12.0	0.4	349	22.9	-137	-11.0
Juneau Borough	22,247	5.1	18,868	3,379	1,738	7.8	3.0	2,253	11.9	-515	-4.1
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	10,096	2.3	9,691	405	1,310	13.0	2.3	1,549	16.0	-239	-3.0
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	4,248	1.0	4,237	11	746	17.6	1.3	1,013	23.9	-267	-6.3
Sitka Borough	6,466	1.5	5,970	496	659	10.2	1.1	796	13.3	-137	-3.1
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	3,100	0.7	2,949	151	523	16.9	0.9	658	22.3	-135	-5.4
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,514	0.6	—	—	430	17.1	0.7	—	—	—	—
Yakutat Borough	586	0.1	—	—	93	15.9	0.2	—	—	—	—
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	4,697	1.1	4,854	-157	724	15.4	1.3	927	19.1	-203	-3.7
Southwest Region	25,182	5.8	25,592	-410	6,985	27.7	12.2	7,084	27.7	-99	0.1
Aleutians East Borough	2,264	0.5	1,931	333	570	25.2	1.0	633	32.8	-63	-7.6
Aleutians West Census Area	4,531	1.0	7,578	-3,047	1,010	22.3	1.8	1,022	13.5	-12	8.8
Bethel Census Area	9,615	2.2	8,337	1,278	2,885	30.0	5.0	2,966	35.6	-81	-5.6
Bristol Bay Borough	865	0.2	1,029	-164	112	12.9	0.2	104	10.1	8	2.8
Dillingham Census Area	3,027	0.7	2,517	510	732	24.2	1.3	731	29.0	1	-4.9
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,131	0.3	1,044	87	332	29.4	0.6	413	39.6	-81	-10.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	3,749	0.9	3,156	593	1,344	35.8	2.3	1,215	38.5	129	-2.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Educational Attainment by Region and Census Area 12

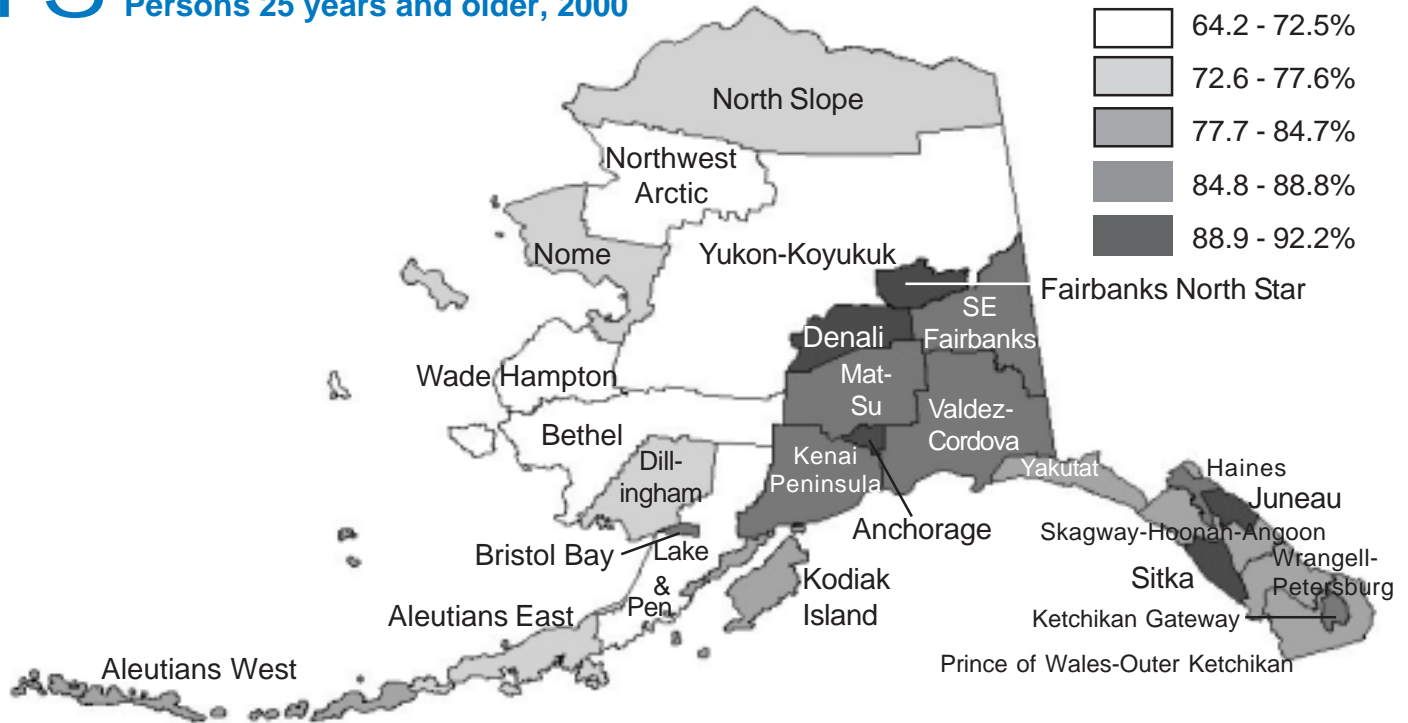
Persons age 18 and older, Alaska, 1990 and 2000 (continued)

	2000		1990		Change in Number	% Change	2000			1990			Change in Number	% Change
	High School Diploma or More	Per- cent	High School Diploma or More	Per- cent			Bachelor's Degree or More	Per- cent	Share of State	Bachelor's Degree or More	Per- cent			
Alaska	379,022	86.8	324,528	85.8	54,494	1.1	96,080	22.0	100.0	76,778	20.3	19,302	1.7	
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	198,654	88.3	165,343	89.0	33,311	-0.6	53,945	24.0	56.1	42,189	22.7	11,756	1.3	
Anchorage Borough	164,059	88.9	142,944	89.4	21,115	-0.5	47,327	25.6	49.3	37,887	23.7	9,440	1.9	
Matanuska-Susitna Bor.	34,595	86.0	22,399	86.4	12,196	-0.4	6,618	16.5	6.9	4,302	16.6	2,316	-0.2	
Gulf Coast Region	44,491	86.6	36,929	84.6	7,562	2.1	9,443	18.4	9.8	7,422	17.0	2,021	1.4	
Kenai Peninsula Borough	30,275	87.0	23,335	85.2	6,940	1.8	6,453	18.5	6.7	4,462	16.3	1,991	2.3	
Kodiak Island Borough	7,935	84.5	7,746	84.1	189	0.5	1,592	17.0	1.7	1,741	18.9	-149	-1.9	
Valdez-Cordova CA	6,281	87.7	5,848	82.8	433	4.8	1,398	19.5	1.5	1,219	17.3	179	2.2	
Interior Region	60,287	88.9	55,100	87.7	5,187	1.2	14,945	22.0	15.6	12,655	20.1	2,290	1.9	
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	52,377	90.4	47,757	89.2	4,620	1.1	13,402	23.1	13.9	11,322	21.2	2,080	2.0	
Southeast Fairbanks CA	3,519	84.8	3,275	86.3	244	-1.4	703	16.9	0.7	634	16.7	69	0.2	
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	4,391	77.2	4,068	73.7	323	3.5	840	14.8	0.9	699	12.7	141	2.1	
Yukon-Koyukuk CA	3,077	72.4	—	—	—	—	532	12.5	0.6	—	—	—	—	
Denali Borough	1,314	91.4	—	—	—	—	308	21.4	0.3	—	—	—	—	
Northern Region	10,678	73.2	8,103	65.7	2,575	7.5	1,898	13.0	2.0	1,443	11.7	455	1.3	
Nome Census Area	4,205	72.6	3,348	65.3	857	7.2	764	13.2	0.8	624	12.2	140	1.0	
North Slope Borough	3,494	76.6	2,528	67.8	966	8.7	665	14.6	0.7	469	12.6	196	2.0	
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,979	70.5	2,227	64.2	752	6.3	469	11.1	0.5	350	10.1	119	1.0	
Southeast Region	46,715	88.8	40,545	84.3	6,170	4.5	13,159	25.0	13.7	10,193	21.2	2,966	3.8	
Haines Borough	1,561	88.0	1,172	77.1	389	11.0	403	22.7	0.4	257	16.9	146	5.8	
Juneau Borough	20,509	92.2	16,615	88.1	3,894	4.1	7,318	32.9	7.6	5,286	28.0	2,032	4.9	
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	8,786	87.0	8,142	84.0	644	3.0	1,856	18.4	1.9	1,762	18.2	94	0.2	
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	3,502	82.4	3,224	76.1	278	6.3	538	12.7	0.6	432	10.2	106	2.5	
Sitka Borough	5,807	89.8	5,174	86.7	633	3.1	1,729	26.7	1.8	1,154	19.3	575	7.4	
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon CA	2,577	83.1	2,291	77.7	286	5.4	590	19.0	0.6	420	14.2	170	4.8	
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,084	82.9	—	—	—	—	498	19.8	0.5	—	—	—	—	
Yakutat Borough	493	84.1	—	—	—	—	92	15.7	0.1	—	—	—	—	
Wrangell-Petersburg CA	3,973	84.6	3,927	80.9	46	3.7	725	15.4	0.8	882	18.2	-157	-2.7	
Southwest Region	18,197	72.3	18,508	72.3	-311	-0.1	2,690	10.7	2.8	2,876	11.2	-186	-0.6	
Aleutians East Borough	1,694	74.8	1,298	67.2	396	7.6	99	4.4	0.1	211	10.9	-112	-6.6	
Aleutians West Census Area	3,521	77.7	6,556	86.5	-3,035	-8.8	472	10.4	0.5	857	11.3	-385	-0.9	
Bethel Census Area	6,730	70.0	5,371	64.4	1,359	5.6	1,086	11.3	1.1	916	11.0	170	0.3	
Bristol Bay Borough	753	87.1	925	89.9	-172	-2.8	170	19.7	0.2	172	16.7	-2	2.9	
Dillingham Census Area	2,295	75.8	1,786	71.0	509	4.9	448	14.8	0.5	333	13.2	115	1.6	
Lake & Peninsula Borough	799	70.6	631	60.4	168	10.2	129	11.4	0.1	130	12.5	-1	-1.0	
Wade Hampton Census Area	2,405	64.2	1,941	61.5	464	2.6	286	7.6	0.3	257	8.1	29	-0.5	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

13 Percent with High School Diploma or Better

Persons 25 years and older, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

14 Educational Attainment

Percent by race and ethnicity

	High School diploma or better			College, Graduate or Professional Degree		
	2000	1990	Change	2000	1990	Change
Total	88.3	86.6	1.7	24.7	23.0	1.7
<i>Race</i>						
White	92.5	91.1	1.4	29.3	26.8	2.5
Native	71.8	63.1	8.7	6.0	4.1	1.9
Black	88.7	88.2	0.5	14.9	14.1	0.8
Asian & Pacific	73.2	75.4	-2.2	20.4	20.5	-0.1
Asian	73.0	—	—	21.2	—	—
Pacific	75.8	—	—	9.7	—	—
2+ Races	86.0	—	—	16.5	—	—
<i>Ethnicity</i>						
Hispanic	78.3	80.4	-2.1	15.3	14.6	0.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Census data covers broad range of topics in detail at various geographic levels

Users of census data will be happy to know that the long-awaited Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3) has been released by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Because of its broad range of topics and geographical coverage, SF3 is sought by decennial census users for a wide variety of applications. The detailed social, economic, and housing characteristics serve as benchmarks for state and local planners. The income and poverty data support grant proposals, while government agencies, non-profits, and businesses use the data to identify small geographic areas of low-income people where services such as child care centers, emergency shelters, and health programs for the elderly may be needed. The journey-to-work data is used to identify commuting patterns. Education and training planners access educational attainment data by sex and age to establish community profiles in order to design adult literacy, and vocational and training programs.

Knowing what exactly is contained in SF3 requires a careful study of the many tables. Three different data sets will be presented in this article to introduce some of the variety available in the file. But first, exactly what is SF3 and how does it compare to past census releases?

SF3 is based on sample data

In 2000, as in past censuses, both short and long form questionnaires were used.

Questions on the short form are referred to as “100 percent” questions because they were asked of the entire population. Census products based on 100 percent data were released in 2001 as Redistricting Summary File (Public Law 94-171), Summary File 1 (SF1), Summary File 2 (SF2), and as one-page Demographic Profiles.

Sample data, the backbone of SF3, was collected from the one in five Alaska households asked to

Percent Difference in Population Totals 1 100 percent data vs. sample data

Size of Place	Alaska Places	Percent Difference							Avg. Diff	Avg. % Diff
		0 to .9	1 to 4.9	5 to 9.9	10 to 24.9	25 to 49.9	50 to 99.9	100 and over		
Places less than 500	239	22	46	60	74	19	15	3	15	15.2
Places 501–2499	77	21	39	14	3	.	.	.	27	2.6
Places 2500–9999	27	20	7	.	.	.	.	.	36	0.5
Places 10,000 or more	4	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	21	0.0

For a list of places where the difference between the 100 percent data and sample data is 25 percent or more, visit the R&A website, click on Census Information/Comparison of 100% vs. Sample Population Totals.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population & Housing, Summary File 3
Produced by: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

complete the long form questionnaire. (In some census tracts the ratio was one in eight, and in rural Alaska as many as one in two households.) This data is called sample data because it was collected from a sample of the population. The long form asked the same questions as the short form plus additional questions about topics such as education, employment, income, ancestry, and homeowner costs.

Demographic Profiles containing some sample data were released in May 2002. The full release of SF3 provides a wider variety of information for a larger geographical set. It is important to note that due to sample weighting, there may be some differences between the population counts shown in the 100 percent SF1 and SF2 and the totals shown in the sample based SF3. For example, SF1 lists the total population of Fairbanks city at 30,224 and Haines city at 1,811, while SF3 has them at 30,259 and 1,794 respectively. (See Exhibit 1 for a comparison of differences in 100 percent and sample data population totals for the state's places.)

Differences between the two censuses

Making comparisons over time has become an important function of a decennial census. Comparisons, however, are not always easy. Topics of interest, data collection methods, sampling procedures, and even boundaries within the state change from one census to the next. So, while many of the types of sample data collected remain the same from 1990 to 2000, there are also differences.

Some information never before collected in a decennial census found its way into Census 2000. For example, data on nativity by language, ability to speak English, grandparents as caregivers, and age by ratio of income to poverty were gathered for the first time.

Another difference is that some long form questions were designed to gather more information and others to collect greater detail than in the past. Examples of new features in 2000 include:

- respondents had the option of self-selecting one or more races.
- ancestry categories increased from 36 in 1990 to 109 in 2000.
- instead of the seven levels of educational attainment available at the block group level in 1990, 2000 offers 17.
- SF3 offers detailed disability data by race that was not included in 1990.

Another change is that certain questions found on the short form in 1990 were moved to the long form in 2000. In 1990, marital status and some housing detail questions, including value of home and number of rooms in a housing unit, were asked on the 100 percent questionnaire. In 2000, these were collected only from the sample population. Sample data is inherently less accurate than 100 percent data, so care should be taken when comparing 1990 with 2000.

2 Grandparents as Caregivers for Grandchildren Census 2002

	U.S.		Alaska	
	Persons	Percent	Persons	Percent
Total Population over 30 years of age	158,881,037		326,384	
Living with own grandchildren under 18 years of age	5,771,671	100%	10,423	100%
Grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under age 18	2,426,730	42.0%	5,419	52.0%
<i>Length of time</i>				
Less than 6 months	293,045	12.1%	737	13.6%
6 to 11 months	262,623	10.8%	641	11.8%
1 or 2 years	563,403	23.2%	1,290	23.8%
3 or 4 years	374,251	15.4%	664	12.3%
5 years or more	933,408	38.5%	2,087	38.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population & Housing, Summary File 3
Produced by: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Some population and housing questions included in the 1990 census were not included at all in 2000. Population questions about fertility and year last worked were dropped. Housing questions related to source of water, sewage disposal, and condominium status were also discontinued.

The form of release for some sample data also changed. In 1990, country of birth information was included in a separate data release. In 2000, it was moved to SF3.

Has Alaska's geography changed?

Not really, but the boundaries of some boroughs and census areas did change during the decade; two new boroughs incorporated; and that is enough to complicate comparisons of 1990 and 2000 data for some areas.

The Denali Borough was incorporated in 1990, but not until after the 1990 Census was completed. Prior to this, the area was included in Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area. By 2000, although the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area retained the same name, with Denali gone its geography was significantly different, making direct comparisons between 1990 and 2000 information difficult.

A similar situation occurs in the Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon Census Area, which included Yakutat until 1992, when Yakutat formed its own borough. The remaining area reorganized to form Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area. There are no 1990 Yakutat Borough data to compare with 2000, and conversely, no 2000 Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon data to compare with 1990.

Examples of SF3 information

SF3 has more than 800 tables of data. This extensive quantity of information offers a variety of opportunities for study and analysis. Following are three examples of the types of information included in SF3.

Grandparents as caregivers

For the first time, Census 2000 collected data on grandparents as primary caregivers for their grandchildren. Information was collected on

whether a grandchild lived in the household, whether the grandparent had responsibility for the basic needs of the grandchild, and the duration of that responsibility. Because very few people under 30 years of age are grandparents, this data was shown only for those over 30.

Fifty-two percent of Alaska's grandparents who live with their grandchildren are also the primary caregivers. (See Exhibit 2.) Nationally, this number is 42 percent. Alaska more closely mirrors the national numbers though, when one looks at substate data for the more densely populated areas. Five of the most populous areas of the state are below the state average. Kenai is the lowest at 44.4 percent, followed by Anchorage at 44.7,

Civilian Veterans Census 2000 3

Persons age 18 and over

	Population	Veterans	Percent Veterans
Southeast Fairbanks	3,963	815	20.6%
Denali	1,324	271	20.5%
Fairbanks North Star	51,743	10,468	20.2%
Matanuska-Susitna	39,854	7,741	19.4%
Haines	1,773	340	19.2%
Bristol Bay	865	161	18.6%
Valdez-Cordova	7,060	1,251	17.7%
Anchorage	176,148	30,920	17.6%
Ketchikan Gateway	9,922	1,705	17.2%
Kenai Peninsula	34,684	5,941	17.1%
Alaska	419,320	71,552	17.1%
Wrangell-Petersburg	4,695	773	16.5%
Yakutat	586	95	16.2%
Kodiak Island	8,591	1,367	15.9%
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	4,248	653	15.4%
Sitka	6,251	931	14.9%
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	2,507	362	14.4%
Yukon-Koyukuk	4,247	609	14.3%
Nome	5,765	781	13.5%
Northwest Arctic	4,224	564	13.4%
Lake and Peninsula	1,131	144	12.7%
United States	208,130,352	26,403,703	12.7%
Juneau	22,096	2,749	12.4%
Bethel	9,586	1,140	11.9%
Aleutians West	4,468	502	11.2%
Dillingham	3,015	306	10.1%
North Slope	4,561	438	9.6%
Aleutians East	2,264	210	9.3%
Wade Hampton	3,749	315	8.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population & Housing, Summary File 3
Produced by: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

Mat-Su at 45.4, Juneau at 47.7, and Fairbanks at 51.3 percent.

The length of time Alaska's grandparents found themselves in the primary caregiver role also paralleled national numbers fairly closely. About 12 percent of grandparents in the U.S. and 13.6 percent in Alaska were in that role for less than six months. At the other end of the time spectrum, 38.5 percent in both the state and nation cared for their grandchildren for five years or more.

Alaska has nation's highest percentage of civilian veterans

Several Census 2000 long form questions pertained to veteran status.

Service members who served in Alaska and stayed after retirement or returned after their discharge comprise most of the state's veterans. At 17.1 percent, Alaska has the nation's highest percentage of civilian veterans to civilian population age 18 and over. The national average is 12.7 percent.

A high percentage of the state's veterans are Vietnam era veterans who came to the state after their service. Individuals who served solely during

the Vietnam era account for 36.5 percent of the state's veterans. Alaska leads all other states in this category; the national average is 28.8 percent.

Within Alaska, Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, Denali Borough, and Fairbanks North Star Borough led in this category with more than 20 percent civilian veterans. Wade Hampton Census Area and the Aleutians East and North Slope Boroughs trailed with less than 10 percent. (See Exhibit 3.) Exhibit 4 depicts veteran distribution statewide.

Gas and oil are main heating sources

An important feature of decennial census data is that they allow historic comparisons. The long forms for both the 1990 and 2000 censuses include a question about house heating fuel. The question asks which fuel was used "most" for heating the housing unit.

Utility gas led all fuel types in both years with 42.8 percent in 1990 and 45.9 percent in 2000. (See Exhibit 5.) Combustible liquid fuels such as fuel oil, kerosene, and alcohol followed with 32.3 percent in 1990 and 35.8 percent in 2000. Combined with bottled, tank, or LP gas, the three liquid and gas fuels supplied heating to almost 77

4 Veterans By borough or census area



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population & Housing, Summary File 3
Produced by: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

percent of Alaska's housing units in 1990 and almost 84 percent in 2000.

Utility gas was the leading source of heat in Anchorage, Kenai, Mat-Su and the North Slope, while combustible liquid fuels led in all other boroughs and census areas. Anchorage, Kenai, and Mat-Su get their gas from Cook Inlet. Almost all of North Slope's utility gas use is in Barrow, which is supplied from nearby gas fields. Population growth in Anchorage, Kenai, and Mat-Su and the extension of existing gas lines in those areas account for much of the gas use growth since 1990.

Only 371 more units used electricity as a main fuel source in 2000 than in 1990. This is an increase of only 1.7 percent for the decade. The low growth rate is most likely due to electricity's high cost compared to gas and oil.

Wood as the primary source of heat declined in every borough and census area between 1990 and 2000. In 1990, over 14,500, or 7.7 percent of total housing units in the state, used wood as the primary heating source. By 2000, this had declined to just over 8,200, or 3.7 percent of total occupied housing units. Wood is likely a secondary source of heat in some houses, but no questions captured this data on either census. Relatively inexpensive gas or oil alternatives, changing stove emission and pollution standards, and an aging population unwilling or unable to do the hard work associated with gathering and burning wood as fuel are probable reasons contributing to the decline of wood burning as a main source of heat.

The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, however, was an exception to this trend, with 42.0 percent of its housing units using mostly wood. This area trailed all boroughs and census areas in median household income in 1999; its residents may assign other priorities for their available cash. Another factor is that many of Yukon-Koyukuk's populated areas have a ready supply of wood nearby.

How to find SF3 data

SF3 covers a broad range of topics and provides extensive, detailed census information.

The entire body of sample data is available on the U.S. Census Bureau's web site. AKDOL's web site offers an easy to use interactive database of selected tables. The tables chosen are based on types of information most requested from the department in the past.

To access the information on AKDOL's website, or to read the four-page Demographic Profiles, click on Census Information at the Research and Analysis homepage at <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/>

Access the U.S. Census Bureau's SF3 files and the extensive collection of other census data at <http://www.census.gov/>. Find summary file and other information by clicking on American Factfinder.

For assistance with either of these sites or other census related questions, contact CGIN at (907) 465-2439, or e-mail Census@labor.state.ak.us

View the Census 2000 questionnaires at:

Short Form - <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/pdf/d61a.pdf>

Long Form - <http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/pdf/d02p.pdf>

House Heating Fuel in Alaska 5 Census 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000		1990-2000 Change	
		Percent		Percent		Percent
Total Occupied Housing Units	188,915		221,600		32,685	17.3%
Gas and liquid fuels	145,338	76.9%	186,005	83.9%	40,667	28.0%
Utility gas	80,775	42.8%	101,703	45.9%	20,928	25.9%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	60,926	32.3%	79,429	35.8%	18,503	30.4%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	3,637	1.9%	4,873	2.2%	1,236	34.0%
Electricity	22,326	11.8%	22,697	10.2%	371	1.7%
Wood	14,570	7.7%	8,202	3.7%	-6,368	-43.7%
Coal or coke	3,198	1.7%	1,090	0.5%	-2,108	-65.9%
Solar energy	56	0.0%	44	0.0%	-12	-21.4%
Other fuel	2,533	1.3%	2,416	1.1%	-117	-4.6%
No fuel used	894	0.5%	1,146	0.5%	252	28.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population & Housing, Summary File 3
Produced by: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

September Qualifies as “Interesting Times”

Permanent Fund reverberates from stock market fall, business rides out West Coast dock strike

Alaska Employment Scene

by
Neal Gilbertsen
Labor Economist

Roughly translated, a Chinese curse reads, “May you live in interesting times!”

September was a very interesting month for Alaskans. On the national scene, the stock market fell to levels few observers imagined possible a short time ago, shaking the confidence of investors and consumers alike. Talk of war with Iraq escalated as Congress considered and passed a resolution supporting the President’s use of military force if necessary. Dockworkers were locked out in a labor dispute and all West Coast ports ceased operations until reopened by the first use of the Taft-Hartley Act in 24 years. While the national unemployment rate dropped three

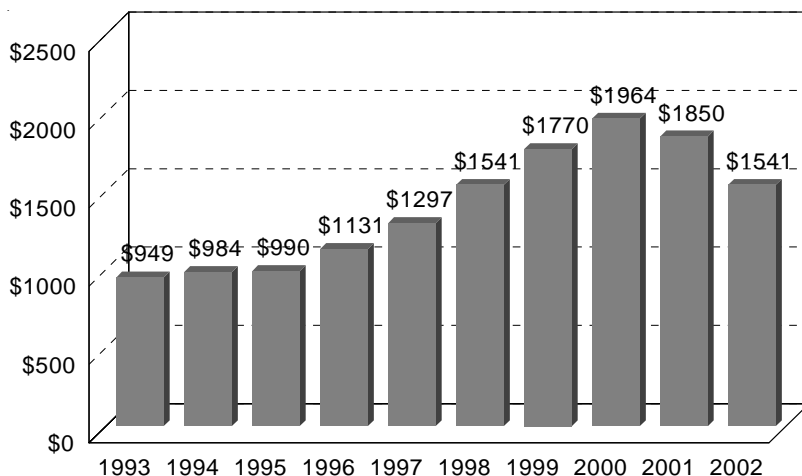
tenths of a point for the month to 5.4%, consumer confidence fell to the lowest level since 1997.

How did these national events affect Alaskans? Wall Street’s problems have seen the valuation of Alaska Permanent Fund’s Earning Reserve Account decline more than \$5 billion from its 2000 high of \$27.8 billion. In September, at the same time the amount of the 2002 Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) was announced to be \$1541, (\$310 less than 2001), concerns about next year’s dividend arose.

Dividends are paid from the fund’s earnings, after the principal has been inflation proofed. Continued declines in the value of the stock portfolio could bring the principal below required levels by next year, forcing managers to devote any earnings to inflation proofing. At the end of the fiscal year, (June 30, 2002) the Permanent Fund principal was valued at \$21.9 billion. By October 4, 2002, the value had declined to \$21.7 billion or \$477 million less than the estimated inflation proofed principal of \$22.1 billion that will be needed next June. The requirement to maintain an inflation-adjusted principal raises a real possibility that 2003 might not allow for a dividend, should adverse market conditions continue. (At the time of this writing, markets have strengthened and recovered much of September’s “lost” value.)

The distribution of the PFD usually stimulates an Alaska shopping spree. Retail sales following the release commonly produce more revenues than

1 PFD Rides Downslope from 2000 To \$1541 for 2002



Source: Alaska Permanent Fund

the Christmas season. Whether the uncertainty surrounding the national economy will affect Alaskans' spending habits is still an open question. Fortunately for both buyers and sellers, a large amount of retail goods was on hand prior to the closure of the West Coast ports. Most Alaska merchants had already received their shipments of PFD targeted merchandise. Still, the interruption of shipping caused a good deal of concern.

On September 27, the Pacific Maritime Association locked out the International Longshore and Warehouse Union from all West Coast ports. The ports reopened the next day, but were again closed by the shippers association September 29. The labor dispute brought container shipping to Anchorage to a halt.

Alaska's congressional delegation and Governor Knowles negotiated with shippers and union representatives, requesting an exception for Alaska-bound goods. Anchorage and Railbelt businessmen scurried to make other freight arrangements. Truck traffic along the Alaska Highway increased dramatically, as reportedly did rates. Alaska Marine Lines increased the number of barges and sailings into Whittier in an attempt to fill some of the shipping gap. Fortunately, most of coastal Alaska was unaffected by the port closures because it is served by barge lines not involved in the dispute.

On October 4, following a week of consternation and worry for Alaskans, shippers and the union agreed to let goods bound for Alaska flow freely through the ports. Shortly thereafter, (October 8), the ports were reopened via Taft-Hartley, and the rest of the nation resumed business as usual. While the interruption of freight service turned out to be only a minor delay and inconvenience, the vulnerability to and dependency of Alaska on the outside world was once again pointed out. Still, Alaskans seem to have taken the shutdown in stride, unlike Hawaii, where nervous shoppers laid in reserve supplies of essentials and cleared supermarket shelves of Spam and toilet paper.

One year ago, the tragic events of September 11 shook the nation. As outrage and mourning gave way to more practical considerations, economic

forecasters worried about such things as long-term impacts on tourism. In Alaska's case, the question seems to have been answered in a positive way. While bookings were slow in coming, initial reports seem to indicate that Alaska saw a record number of visitors in 2002.

Alaska's September unemployment rate of 6.3% was a full percentage point above last year and up from August's rate of 5.8%. This is the highest September rate since 1996 when it stood at 6.4% and the second highest since 1992. Ironically, preliminary estimates show the state has added about 3,600 jobs since September 2001. So while the unemployment rate increased over that of a year ago, actual employment has also increased.

Unemployment rates usually climb in September as seasonal industry winds down. While the three largest urban centers ran well below the national level, Juneau (4.6%), Fairbanks (5.1%) and Anchorage (4.8%) all saw increases over year-ago rates. Rural Alaska saw much larger increases in unemployment, with Wade Hampton reporting 20.7%, up 4.8 points over last year.

Industries that tend to be based in urban areas have fared relatively well. Construction has shown the highest annual growth rate. Estimates show more than 1,000 new jobs in this category since September 2001, an increase of nearly 6 percent. Services and retail trade employment have gained more than 3,000 jobs in the period. Government, led by strong employment growth at University of Alaska campuses, has added 1,700 positions. These gains have been offset by losses in oil and gas, seafood processing, and logging, jobs that tend to be located in more rural areas.

Overall, September has raised as many questions as it has provided answers, but one thing seems clear. However remote it might appear to be, Alaska remains part of the national economy. While Alaskans sometimes think of themselves as being separate from "the lower 48", events in Washington and on Wall Street directly affect lives in Kodiak, Kenai, and Ketchikan, and lockouts in San Diego have repercussions in Sitka, Seward and Sand Point.

2 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

Alaska	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	9/02	8/02	9/01	8/02	9/01
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	308,000	313,900	304,600	-5,900	3,400
Goods-producing	44,800	49,500	45,800	-4,700	-1,000
Service-producing	263,200	264,400	258,800	-1,200	4,400
Mining	10,200	10,300	11,300	-100	-1,100
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,600	8,700	9,600	-100	-1,000
Construction	18,800	19,600	17,800	-800	1,000
Manufacturing	15,800	19,600	16,700	-3,800	-900
Durable Goods	2,300	2,400	2,700	-100	-400
Lumber & Wood Products	900	900	1,300	0	-400
Nondurable Goods	13,500	17,200	14,000	-3,700	-500
Seafood Processing	10,500	14,200	11,000	-3,700	-500
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	29,000	30,000	29,500	-1,000	-500
Trucking & Warehousing	3,300	3,400	3,300	-100	0
Water Transportation	2,200	2,300	2,300	-100	-100
Air Transportation	10,200	10,600	10,200	-400	0
Communications	5,500	5,500	5,600	0	-100
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	2,900	3,000	3,000	-100	-100
Trade	61,500	63,300	60,400	-1,800	1,100
Wholesale Trade	8,400	8,800	8,500	-400	-100
Retail Trade	53,100	54,500	51,900	-1,400	1,200
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	10,600	10,600	10,300	0	300
Food Stores	6,500	6,600	6,500	-100	0
Eating & Drinking Places	19,400	20,300	18,800	-900	600
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	13,000	13,300	13,000	-300	0
Services & Misc.	78,400	80,500	76,300	-2,100	2,100
Hotels & Lodging Places	9,100	10,200	8,700	-1,100	400
Business Services	8,900	9,100	9,100	-200	-200
Health Services	19,100	19,200	18,500	-100	600
Legal Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0
Social Services	9,300	9,100	8,800	200	500
Engineering/Account'g/Research	8,600	8,700	8,300	-100	300
Government	81,300	77,300	79,600	4,000	1,700
Federal	17,300	17,500	17,100	-200	200
State	24,600	23,000	23,700	1,600	900
Local	39,400	36,800	38,800	2,600	600
Tribal	3,400	3,500	3,100	-100	300

Municipality of Anchorage	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	9/02	8/02	9/01	8/02	9/01
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	143,800	144,000	141,100	-200	2,700
Goods-producing	14,600	15,200	14,400	-600	200
Service-producing	129,200	128,800	126,700	400	2,500
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,800	0	-200
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,500	2,500	2,700	0	-200
Construction	9,600	10,200	9,100	-600	500
Manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,500	0	-100
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	15,700	16,200	15,600	-500	100
Air Transportation	6,200	6,400	6,200	-200	0
Communications	3,500	3,500	3,600	0	-100
Trade	33,400	33,700	32,700	-300	700
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,300	6,200	-100	0
Retail Trade	27,200	27,400	26,500	-200	700
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	5,500	5,500	5,200	0	300
Food Stores	2,200	2,300	2,400	-100	-200
Eating & Drinking Places	10,400	10,700	10,200	-300	200
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	7,600	7,700	7,600	-100	0
Services & Misc.	42,400	42,500	41,500	-100	900
Hotels & Lodging Places	3,300	3,400	3,200	-100	100
Business Services	6,400	6,500	6,600	-100	-200
Health Services	10,400	10,200	10,100	200	300
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Social Services	4,500	4,500	4,300	0	200
Engineering/Account'g/Research	6,300	6,400	6,000	-100	300
Government	30,100	28,700	29,300	1,400	800
Federal	9,700	9,800	9,600	-100	100
State	10,000	9,200	9,500	800	500
Local	10,400	9,700	10,200	700	200
Tribal	200	200	200	0	0

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

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

Exhibit 4—Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

3 Hours and Earnings

For selected industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	preliminary 9/02	revised 8/02	revised 9/01	preliminary 9/02	revised 8/02	revised 9/01	preliminary 9/02	revised 8/02	revised 9/01
Mining	\$1,193.56	\$1,291.95	\$1,379.94	42.4	43.5	47.4	\$28.15	\$29.70	\$29.10
Construction	1343.01	1327.75	1402.95	46.6	47.1	47.0	28.82	28.19	29.85
Manufacturing	526.68	509.54	497.37	34.2	33.7	35.4	15.40	15.12	14.05
Seafood Processing	366.56	398.42	336.09	30.7	31.2	32.1	11.94	12.77	10.47
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	798.49	764.09	766.36	35.3	34.7	35.3	22.62	22.02	21.71
Trade	513.12	511.20	506.58	34.6	35.5	35.7	14.83	14.40	14.19
Wholesale Trade	742.10	699.45	721.60	41.0	39.9	38.2	18.10	17.53	18.89
Retail Trade	480.56	484.41	471.96	33.7	34.9	35.3	14.26	13.88	13.37
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	676.73	636.88	677.63	36.6	35.8	37.5	18.49	17.79	18.07

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 2001

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

4 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

By place of work

	preliminary		9/01	Changes from:	
	9/02	8/02		8/02	9/01
Fairbanks North Star Borough					
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	37,000	37,650	36,250	-650	750
Goods-producing	4,600	4,700	4,350	-100	250
Service-producing	32,400	32,950	31,900	-550	500
Mining	950	950	1,150	0	-200
Construction	2,950	3,050	2,550	-100	400
Manufacturing	700	700	650	0	50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,200	3,350	3,500	-150	-300
Trucking & Warehousing	700	700	650	0	50
Air Transportation	1,050	1,100	1,050	-50	0
Communications	350	350	400	0	-50
Trade	6,900	7,250	6,850	-350	50
Wholesale Trade	700	750	700	-50	0
Retail Trade	6,200	6,500	6,150	-300	50
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,200	1,200	1,250	0	-50
Food Stores	600	650	650	-50	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	2,300	2,550	2,250	-250	50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,250	1,250	1,200	0	50
Services & Misc.	9,800	10,400	9,300	-600	500
Hotels & Lodging Places	1,350	1,650	1,350	-300	0
Health Services	2,300	2,350	2,100	-50	200
Government	11,250	10,700	11,050	550	200
Federal	3,350	3,400	3,400	-50	-50
State	4,850	4,650	4,600	200	250
Local	3,050	2,650	3,050	400	0
Tribal (no data)	-	-	-	-	-

Southeast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	39,800	41,050	39,450	-1,250	350
Goods-producing	5,550	6,450	5,800	-900	-250
Service-producing	34,250	34,600	33,650	-350	600
Mining	300	300	300	0	0
Construction	1,900	1,900	1,750	0	150
Manufacturing	3,350	4,250	3,750	-900	-400
Durable Goods	750	800	1,150	-50	-400
Lumber & Wood Products	500	550	900	-50	-400
Nondurable Goods	2,600	3,450	2,600	-850	0
Seafood Processing	2,300	3,150	2,300	-850	0
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	3,200	3,450	3,250	-250	-50
Trade	7,000	7,350	6,900	-350	100
Wholesale Trade	650	700	650	-50	0
Retail Trade	6,350	6,650	6,250	-300	100
Food Stores	1,300	1,350	1,300	-50	0
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,350	1,350	1,350	0	0
Services & Misc.	8,900	9,050	8,550	-150	350
Health Services	1,750	1,800	1,750	-50	0
Government	13,800	13,400	13,600	400	200
Federal	2,050	2,050	1,900	0	150
State	5,700	5,450	5,750	250	-50
Local	6,050	5,900	5,950	150	100
Tribal	550	550	550	0	0

Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,700	15,600	16,700	100	-1,000
Goods-producing	5,450	5,450	6,300	0	-850
Service-producing	10,250	10,150	10,400	100	-150
Mining	4,850	4,900	5,550	-50	-700
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,350	4,450	5,050	-100	-700
Government	4,800	4,500	4,850	300	-50
Federal	150	150	150	0	0
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	4,300	4,000	4,350	300	-50
Tribal	250	250	250	0	0

	preliminary		9/01	Changes from:	
	9/02	8/02		8/02	9/01
Interior Region					
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	44,200	44,400	43,350	-200	850
Goods-producing	4,950	5,000	4,700	-50	250
Service-producing	39,250	39,400	38,650	-150	600
Mining	1,050	1,050	1,300	0	-250
Construction	3,150	3,200	2,700	-50	450
Manufacturing	750	750	700	0	50
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	4,250	4,600	4,550	-350	-300
Trade	8,600	8,950	8,500	-350	100
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	1,300	1,350	1,300	-50	0
Services & Misc.	10,950	11,450	10,400	-500	550
Hotels & Lodging Places	1,950	2,250	1,950	-300	0
Government	14,150	13,050	13,900	1,100	250
Federal	3,900	4,000	3,950	-100	-50
State	5,150	4,900	4,900	250	250
Local	5,100	4,150	5,050	950	50
Tribal	350	400	350	-50	0

Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	159,050	159,500	155,350	-450	3,700
Goods-producing	16,600	17,250	16,100	-650	500
Service-producing	142,450	142,250	139,250	200	3,200
Mining	2,700	2,700	2,900	0	-200
Construction	11,350	11,950	10,550	-600	800
Manufacturing	2,550	2,600	2,650	-50	-100
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	16,850	17,250	16,750	-400	100
Trade	37,350	37,650	36,550	-300	800
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	8,150	8,200	8,100	-50	50
Services & Misc.	46,400	46,900	45,200	-500	1,200
Government	33,700	32,250	32,650	1,450	1,050
Federal	9,900	9,950	9,800	-50	100
State	11,000	10,150	10,450	850	550
Local	12,800	12,150	12,400	650	400
Tribal	250	250	250	0	0

Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	19,100	19,800	19,200	-700	-100
Goods-producing	5,200	6,200	5,300	-1,000	-100
Service-producing	13,900	13,600	13,900	300	0
Seafood Processing	4,950	5,900	5,050	-950	-100
Government	7,250	6,650	7,150	600	100
Federal	400	350	400	50	0
State	600	550	550	50	50
Local	6,250	5,750	6,200	500	50
Tribal	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0

Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,850	32,850	30,150	-3,000	-300
Goods-producing	6,750	8,950	7,450	-2,200	-700
Service-producing	23,100	23,900	22,700	-800	400
Mining	1,200	1,300	1,250	-100	-50
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,150	1,250	1,250	-100	-100
Construction	1,600	1,800	1,850	-200	-250
Manufacturing	3,950	5,850	4,350	-1,900	-400
Seafood Processing	3,050	4,900	3,400	-1,850	-350
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	2,300	2,450	2,450	-150	-150
Trade	6,000	6,450	5,800	-450	200
Wholesale Trade	500	550	550	-50	-50
Retail Trade	5,500	5,900	5,250	-400	250
Eating & Drinking Places	1,950	2,250	1,900	-300	50
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	750	750	750	0	0
Services & Misc.	6,450	6,950	6,350	-500	100
Health Services	1,250	1,250	1,250	0	0
Government	7,600	7,300	7,350	300	250
Federal	850	900	850	-50	0
State	1,750	1,600	1,650	150	100
Local	5,000	4,800	4,850	200	150
Tribal	250	250	250	0	0

5 Unemployment Rates

By region and census area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	preliminary	revised	09/01
	09/02	08/02	
United States	5.4	5.7	4.7
Alaska Statewide	6.3	5.8	5.2
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	5.2	4.9	4.3
Municipality of Anchorage	4.8	4.4	3.8
Mat-Su Borough	7.2	6.7	6.1
Gulf Coast Region	9.1	7.6	7.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	9.8	7.8	7.5
Kodiak Island Borough	7.0	7.6	7.5
Valdez-Cordova	8.8	6.6	6.0
Interior Region	5.8	5.3	5.1
Denali Borough	6.0	4.1	6.6
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.1	4.7	4.7
Southeast Fairbanks	9.5	8.2	8.2
Yukon-Koyukuk	15.0	13.7	10.3
Northern Region	14.2	13.6	10.5
Nome	11.4	11.1	10.2
North Slope Borough	13.0	12.6	9.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	20.2	18.8	13.2
Southeast Region	5.6	5.3	5.0
Haines Borough	6.4	6.4	5.2
Juneau Borough	4.6	4.3	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7.2	7.0	5.6
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	8.1	8.1	8.7
Sitka Borough	4.8	3.8	3.2
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	5.6	4.8	6.6
Wrangell-Petersburg	5.7	5.6	4.7
Yakutat Borough	4.0	7.1	5.6
Southwest Region	11.8	11.2	9.3
Aleutians East Borough	3.5	2.6	3.0
Aleutians West	8.2	8.5	5.3
Bethel	12.6	11.3	10.3
Bristol Bay Borough	9.6	8.2	8.0
Dillingham	9.2	9.8	8.1
Lake & Peninsula Borough	11.7	11.0	8.0
Wade Hampton	20.7	20.7	15.9
Seasonally Adjusted			
United States	5.6	5.7	5.0
Alaska Statewide	7.5	7.3	6.2

2001 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

Index of Trends Articles for 2002

January	Manufacturing
	Information Technology
	Employment Scene
	October brings typical seasonal downturn
February	The Federal Government in Alaska
	Employment Scene
	Alaska racks up another year of growth
March	The Alaska Labor Force
	New Hires
	Employment Scene
	2001 ends with low unemployment and moderate job growth
April	The Year 2001 in Review
	Census Goes Internet
	Employee Benefits
	Employment Scene
	January economy gives mixed signals
May	The 2010 Employment Outlook
	Two-Year Forecasts
	Benchmark Revision
	Employment Scene
	February employment shows stable growth
June	The Cost of Living
	Training Programs
	Employment Scene
	2002 off to a modest start
July	The Eating and Drinking Industry
	Industry Classification System Changes
	Employment Scene
	Growth continues in April
August	The Trends 100
	The State Training and Employment Program (STEP)
	Employment Scene
	Economic review is mixed
September	The Bethel Census Area
	Web Site Gets New Look
	Employment Scene
	June economy reflects global trends
October	Rental Housing
	Subsidized Rental Housing
	Occupational Data Base
	Employment Scene
	Unemployment remains low
November	The Delta Region
	Another Batch of Census Data
	Employment Scene
	Alaska income figures give mixed signals
December	Education in Alaska
	Census Issues Socio-Economic Data
	Employment Scene
	September qualifies as "Interesting Times"

Employer Resources

Are you an employer who hires employees? You are required by law to post a variety of posters and notices in normal, conspicuous areas around your business location for your employees to see. You may download these at <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/lss/posters.htm>, or you can contact the Labor Standards and Safety Division for assistance.

