

ALASKA ECONOMIC

# TRENDS

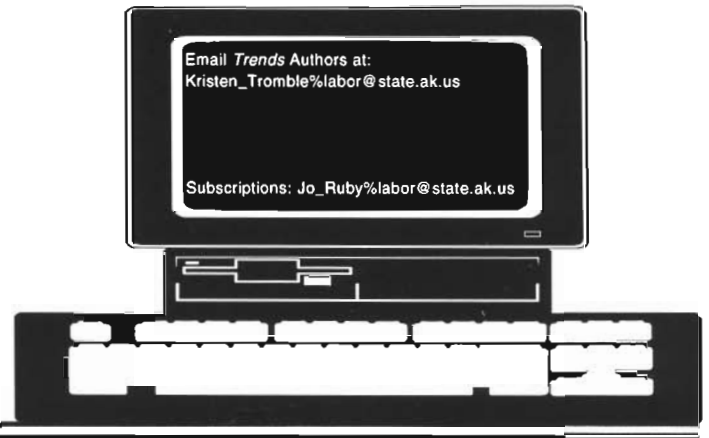
January  
1996

CASE STUDY OF A LAYOFF—  
LIFE AFTER GREENS CREEK

TOURISM  
STEAMS  
AHEAD



# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



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# Case Study of a Layoff— Life After Greens Creek

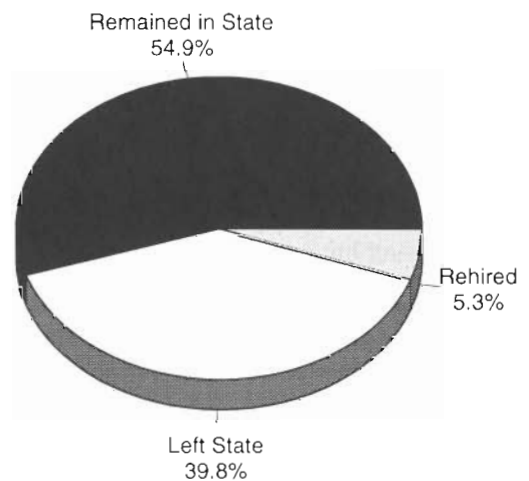
by Kristen Tromble

The announcement of an impending cutback or closure of a large employer invokes many fears in the affected community and its residents. For employees, the imminent prospect of lost wages and benefits stirs up frightening questions about their future economic security. This apprehension in turn infects the community around them.

When a layoff is announced, the affected workers may anticipate long-term changes in their employment patterns. Every situation is different, but assumptions might include that wages will decline, but will tend to recover over time; that some workers will relocate, accept work in a different occupation or industry, or be more apt to work multiple or temporary jobs; and that younger workers will find reemployment more easily than older ones. By examining unemployment insurance, wage and occupational data, researchers in the Alaska Department of Labor (AKDOL) tracked what actually happened to workers after their layoff from Greens Creek Mine, near Juneau, in 1993. Unless otherwise noted, the AKDOL analysis focuses on employees who remained in Alaska. (See Sidebar, *Whom We Studied*; and Figure 1.)

Figure • 1

## Almost 40% of Workers Left Alaska



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

## Whom We Studied

In April 1993, Greens Creek mine near Juneau suspended production and laid off most of their workers. From wage records for quarters before and after the shutdown, 222 employees were identified as potential layoffs. Comparing data provided by Greens Creek to wage records and Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend records, researchers at the Alaska Department of Labor further classified these workers as follow: 113 employees laid off, remained or worked in state following layoff; 82 employees laid off, moved out of state; 11 employees laid off, but rehired; 16 employees not laid off, transferred or other departure.

This analysis primarily focuses on the 113 employees who were laid off but remained in the state or had significant in-state, post-layoff work histories. Workers in this group who may have left the state later in the analysis period were not identified.

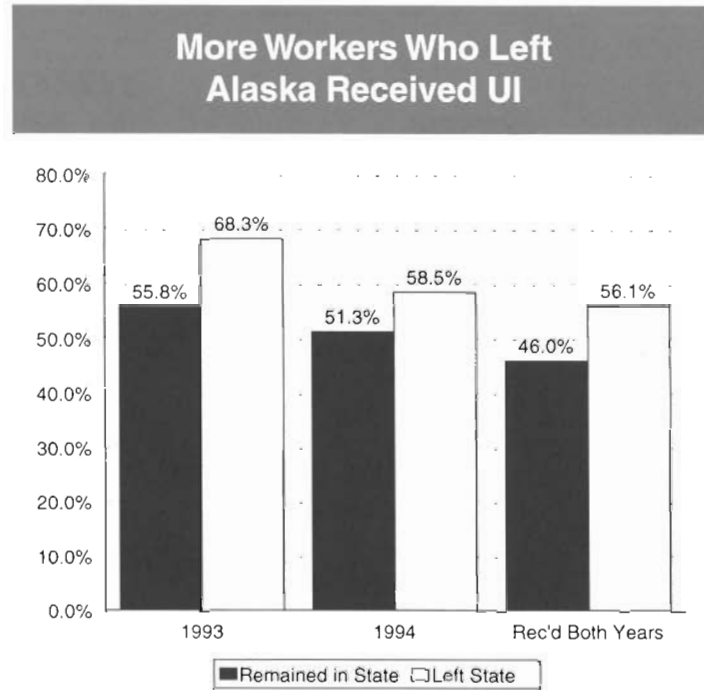
In addition to the files mentioned above, the data were matched to the Occupational Database<sup>1</sup> and the Unemployment Insurance claimant characteristics file. All post-layoff employment included in this analysis is for wage and salary nonagricultural jobs. Any workers who became self-employed are not reflected in the employment or wage numbers.

Because these workers were overwhelmingly male and the occupation profile of the female and male workers differed, no comparison in post-layoff employment by gender was attempted. The analysis compares earnings based on the sum of wages from all jobs held, while other factors are based on the characteristics of the job where the employee received the most earnings in the quarter.

<sup>1</sup>The Occupational Database (ODB) provides occupation and place of work information for approximately 90 percent of Alaska's wage and salary workers. Special thanks to Greens Creek employees for providing information for this article.

The AKDOL cautions against extrapolating these findings to other layoff events, however. Many of the Greens Creek Mine employees worked in highly skilled, specialized occupations and may have been more likely to seek work outside the state and less likely to retrain for work in other industries. As skilled workers, they may have found new jobs more easily than workers in other layoffs. Wages in the mining industry are higher than average, and these workers received severance pay, factors which may have influenced their post-layoff experience. Also, the small size of the study group magnifies any data errors.

Figure • 2



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

*Find Help.*) Compared to the average UI claimant, benefits for workers laid off from Greens Creek were generally greater and received for more weeks. The mining industry's high average wage would be a reason for greater benefit amounts. Because they were more likely to have had full-time, year-round employment, Greens Creek workers may have qualified for more weeks of benefits.

Some workers may see no alternative but to look out of state for employment. While no out-of-state post-layoff employment history was available, the AKDOL did compare UI claims for those who remained in Alaska with those who left.

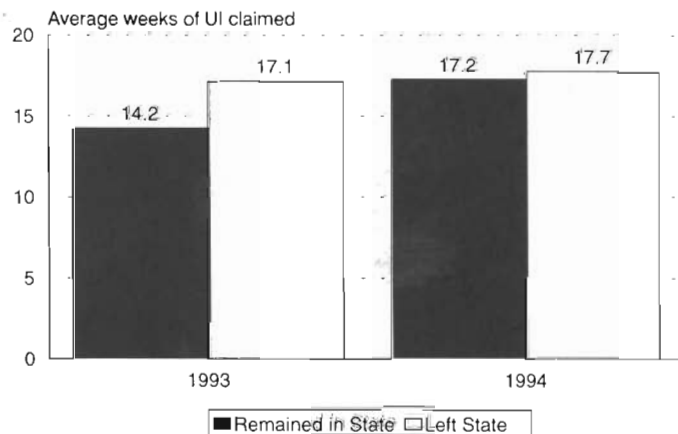
### I'm unemployed! What now?

The first change to confront workers facing layoff is the prospect of unemployment. Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits can help workers through the transition to reemployment. (See Sidebar, *Laid-Off Workers Can*

Workers who remained in Alaska were less likely to receive UI benefits. On average, their benefit was lower than those who moved out of state and was collected for fewer weeks. (See Figures 2-4.) This trend is typical of UI claimants as a whole. One factor may be that workers who relocate delay starting new employment while they move.

Figure • 3

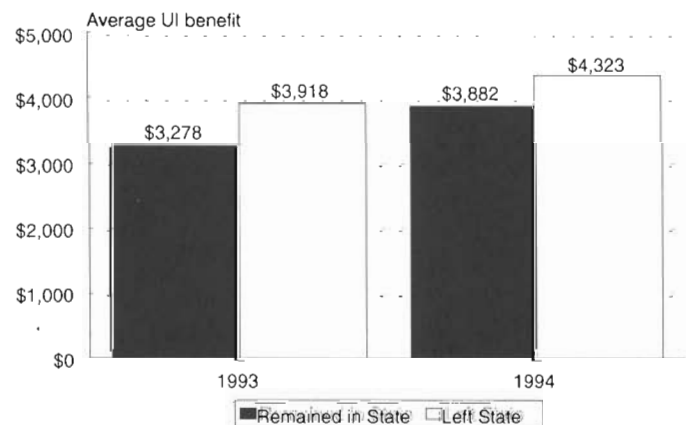
### They Received Benefits Longer . . .



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Figure • 4

### And Their Average Benefit Was Geater

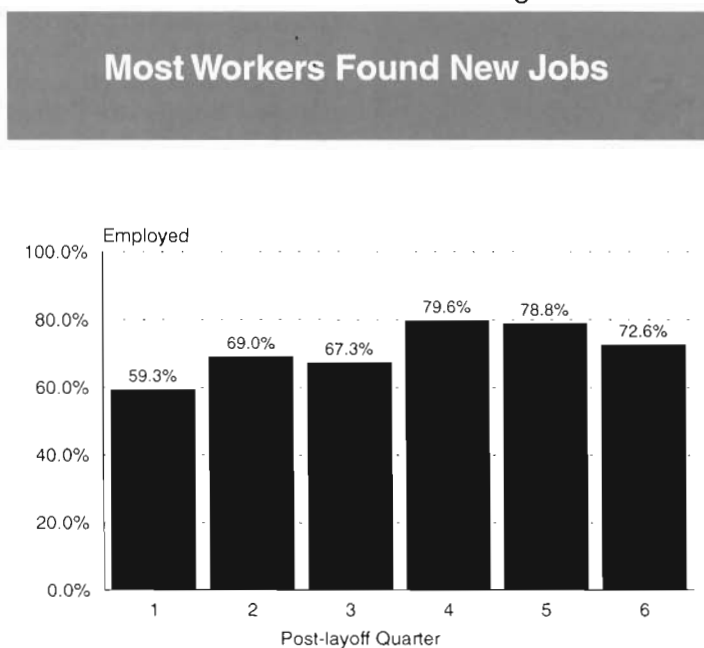


Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Figure • 5

**Back in the workforce...**

A more welcome change than losing a job is finding a new one. Almost 60 percent of the laid-off workers who remained in Alaska held new jobs in the first quarter following layoff. Employment tended to increase in subsequent quarters. (See Figure 5.) Peaks in the fourth and fifth quarters following layoff may reflect Alaska's seasonal employment trends. These quarters occurred during the summer, when employment typically rises.



have been held concurrently or serially. This finding may indicate workers took lower paying jobs and had to work more of them to boost wages or that, not finding full-time employment, they worked short-term temporary jobs.

Multiple job holding was lowest during the first quarter of 1994, and highest during the third quarter. Again, this result may reflect job availability related to Alaska's traditional seasonal employment patterns.

**But it's not easy**

*Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.*

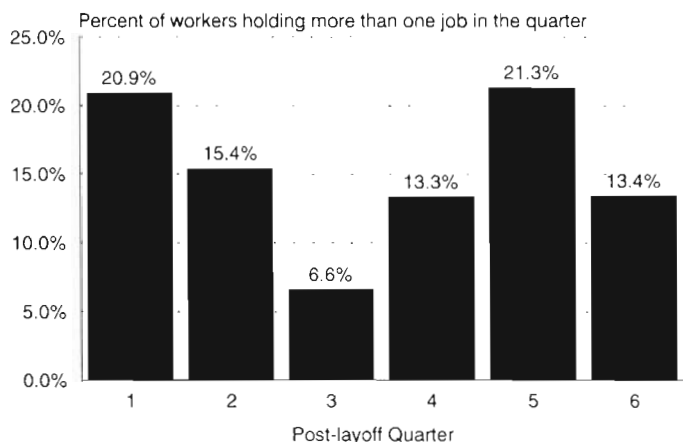
While most of the workers found new jobs, they worked harder to maintain employment. None of the workers held more than one job before the layoff, but some did hold multiple jobs afterwards. (See Figure 6.) For this report, multiple job holders refers to workers with more than one employer in a quarter. Jobs may

slightly over two employers during the eighteen months analyzed. Over 30 percent had three or more employers. (See Figure 7.)

The amount of turnover indicated some workers had trouble finding stable employment. Including multiple job holders, the average worker worked for

Figure • 6

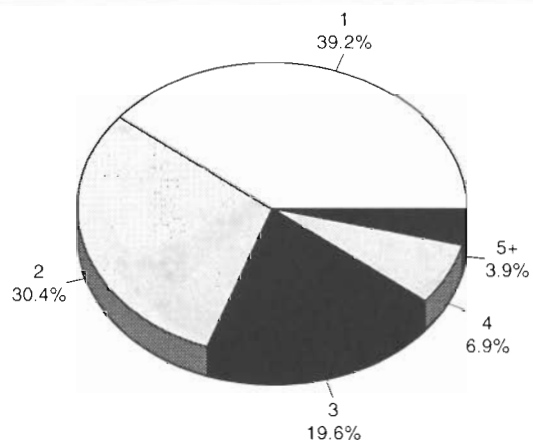
**Some Workers Held More than One Job . . .**



*Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.*

Figure • 7

**And Turnover Increased**

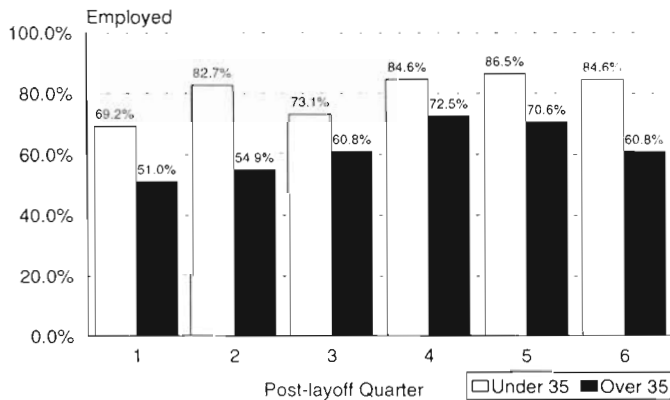


Number of Employers in Six Post-layoff Quarters

*Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.*

Figure • 8

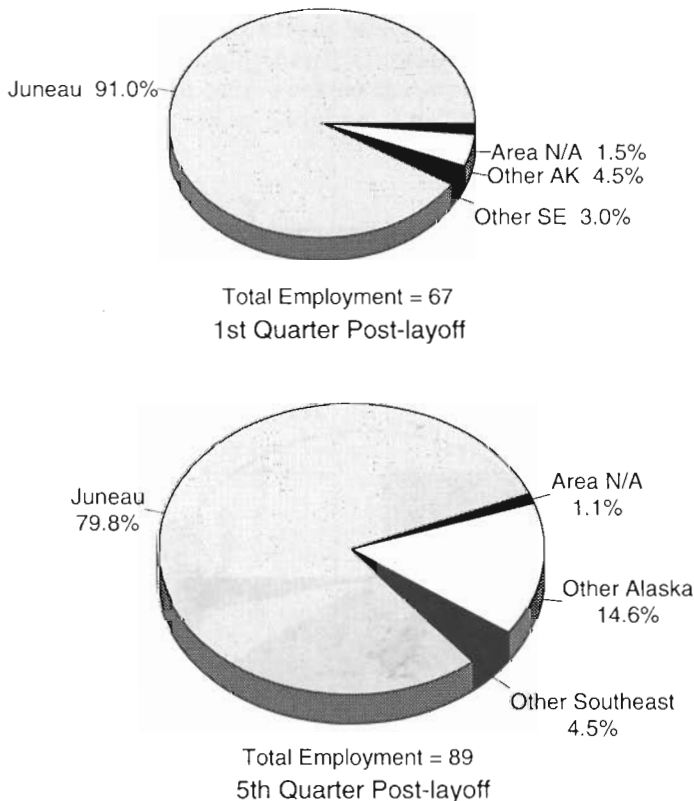
### Younger Workers Were More Likely to Find New Jobs



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Figure • 9

### Over Time, Workers Left Juneau<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Based on workers for whom place of work was available.  
N/A = Not Available.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

### Younger workers fared better

Younger workers found jobs more quickly than older workers did. In the first quarter following layoff, over two-thirds of workers 35 years of age or under had wage and salary employment, compared to about half of older workers. Younger workers were more likely to be employed in each of the six quarters following layoff. (See Figure 8.) The performance of the youngest workers was even more striking with about 78 percent of workers under 30 employed in the first post-layoff quarter, rising to over 91 percent by the sixth quarter. One possible factor influencing the difference in performance is that older workers may have been more likely to become self-employed or leave the labor force entirely.

### Will I have to move?

One change workers often dread is having to move outside their local area for employment. Prior to their layoff, all the Greens Creek workers held jobs in the Juneau Borough. Of the total group, almost 40 percent appear to have left Alaska soon after layoff.

For those who stayed in Alaska, more took jobs outside the Borough, as time from the layoff increased. In the first quarter after layoff, 91.0% of the Alaska-employed workers, for whom information on area of work was available, held jobs in Juneau. One year later, almost 20 percent more of the layoffs were working, but the proportion in Juneau had dropped to about 80 percent. (See Figure 9.) Even workers who did not find new jobs quickly were likely to remain in Juneau. Almost 79 percent of the workers employed in Juneau in the first quarter after layoff worked in Juneau a year later. For workers who did not find jobs in the first quarter following layoff, but were working in the fifth post-layoff quarter, nearly 76 percent worked in Juneau. Most of those who moved accepted employment outside the southeast region of the state.

### Should I retrain?

After layoff, workers may consider training for a new occupation. This study found that the occupational mix of the workers did change. Before layoff, most of the workers held positions in extractive or production occupations. Some of these performed construction, transportation or mechanic jobs. A few of the workers held managerial, professional or clerical positions. None held technical, sales or service positions. After layoff, the proportion working in the latter occupational categories gradually increased. (See Figure 10.)



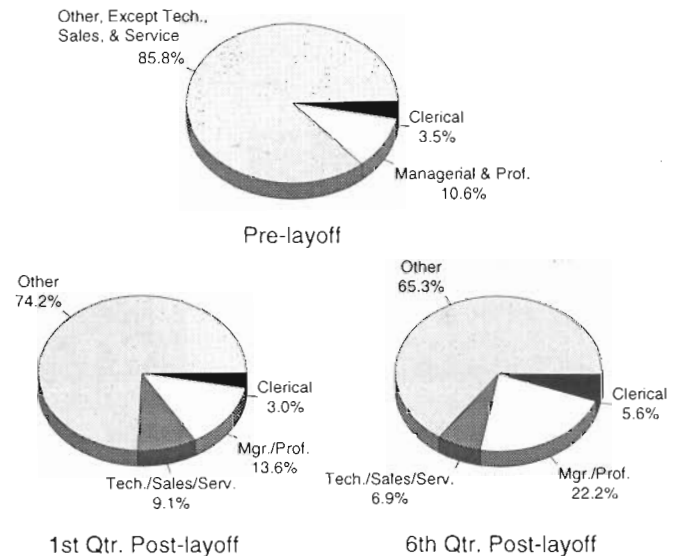
Still, most workers used their prior knowledge and skills in their new jobs—especially those who found reemployment the fastest. (See Figure 11.) The first new jobs tended to require a lower skill level, though this attribute also rose over time. (See Figure 12.)

### Who has jobs?

In which industries did the laid-off workers find new jobs? In this case, many of the reemployed workers stayed in the mining industry. (See Figure 13.) These workers' specialized skills may have made it easier for them to find new employment in the same industry.

The percentage of workers in the mining industry peaked in the second and third post-layoff quarters, when overall reemployment was lower. As time passed and more people found new jobs, the percentage working in the mining industry declined while employment gradually spread throughout other industries. Not surprisingly, workers tended to find jobs in growing industries. Immediately following layoff, the construction industry provided the second largest source of jobs, though the percentage employed in this industry later declined. Overall, the services industry was the next largest employer. Over time, the percentage of workers in transportation and trade increased.

## Workers Moved Into New Occupations<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Based on workers for whom occupation could be evaluated.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

## How We Compared Occupations

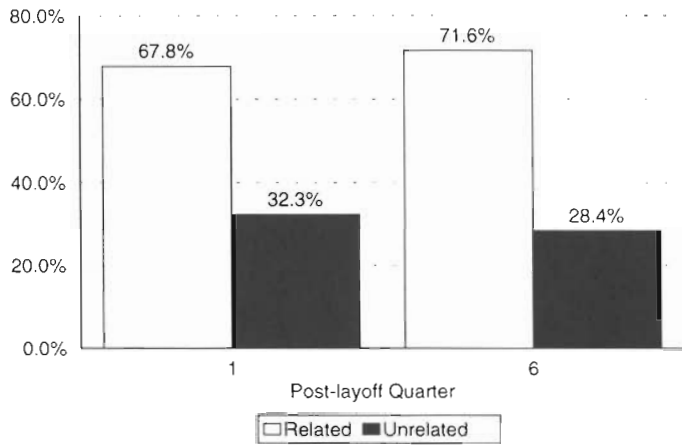
While details of specific job duties were not available, pre- and post-layoff occupations were compared based on the Standard Occupational Classification code (SOC) reported by employers. Pre-layoff occupation was based on the last reported SOC. Where occupation codes were available, the post-layoff occupation in the final quarter studied was evaluated for relationship to the pre-layoff occupation and for whether it required more or less skill.

If the occupation codes matched, the jobs were considered related. Three other primary factors were considered in determining a relationship between pre- and post-layoff occupations. The simplest of these was based on skill. Jobs like those that might be found in a promotional chain are related. For example, an office clerk is related to a secretary is related to an office supervisor. Another relationship is knowledge based. For instance, an accountant and accounting teacher both share a similar knowledge base in accounting, though the actual jobs might require different skills. Industry may also play a role. A laborer position in the mining industry might be related to an extractive occupation, but not to a laborer in retail trade.

Where the comparative skill levels were not obvious, *The Complete Guide for Occupational Exploration* was used to help determine whether the post-layoff occupation was more or less skilled. This reference rates over 12,000 job titles according to the level of reasoning, math, and language skills, and the vocational preparation needed to perform them.

Figure • 11

### Most Workers Found Related Jobs<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Based on workers for whom occupation could be evaluated.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

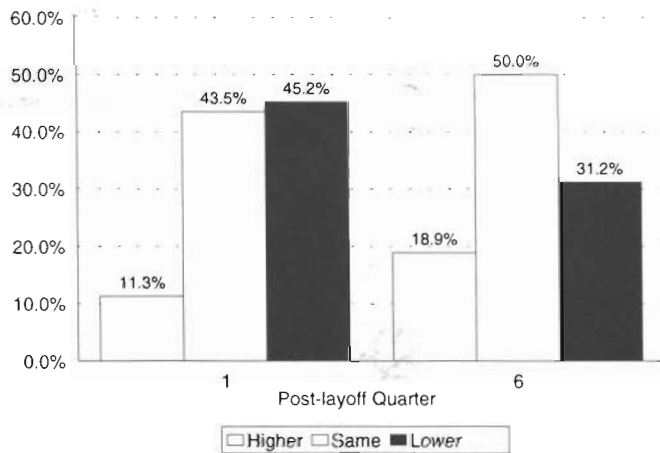
### What about earnings?

Workers may also worry that their earning power will decline after a layoff. This analysis shows they have good reason to be concerned. The earnings analysis for this study is based on Alaska wage and salary employment only. Annual earnings prior to layoff were calculated from the second quarter of 1992 through the first quarter of 1993. These earnings were compared to those for two post-layoff periods. The first period (third quarter 1993 through second quarter 1994) started with the quarter following layoff. The second period, ending about one and one-half years after layoff, included all of 1994. In addition, post-layoff earnings by quarter were compared to earnings in the first quarter of 1993, the last full quarter before the layoff. Greens Creek severance wages were not included in post-employment earnings.

In the first annual period, the earnings of reemployed workers averaged 70.5% of earnings in the year preceding layoff. Over the second period, the average increased to 79.8%. (See Figure 14.) The performance by quarter was more mixed. (See Figure 15.) Post-layoff earnings were lowest in the quarter immediately following layoff. In subsequent quarters, wage recovery approached 75 percent or higher. Peaks in the third and fifth post-layoff quarters were not fully explainable.

Figure • 12

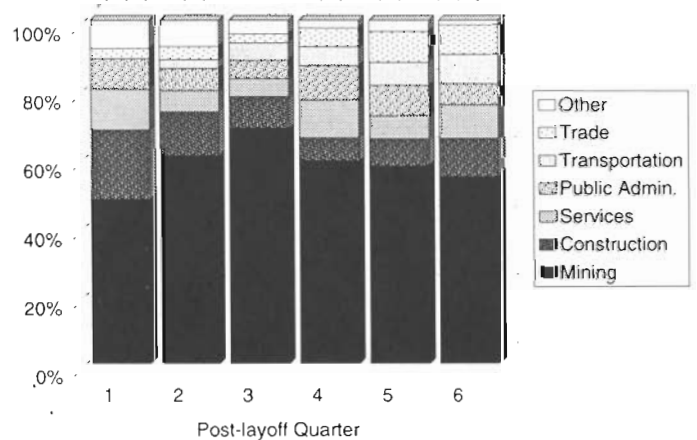
### Eventually, Many Workers Found Jobs of Equal or Greater Skill<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Based on workers for whom occupation could be evaluated.  
Skill level compared to last reported pre-layoff occupation.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Figure • 13

### Workers Moved Into Other Industries



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.



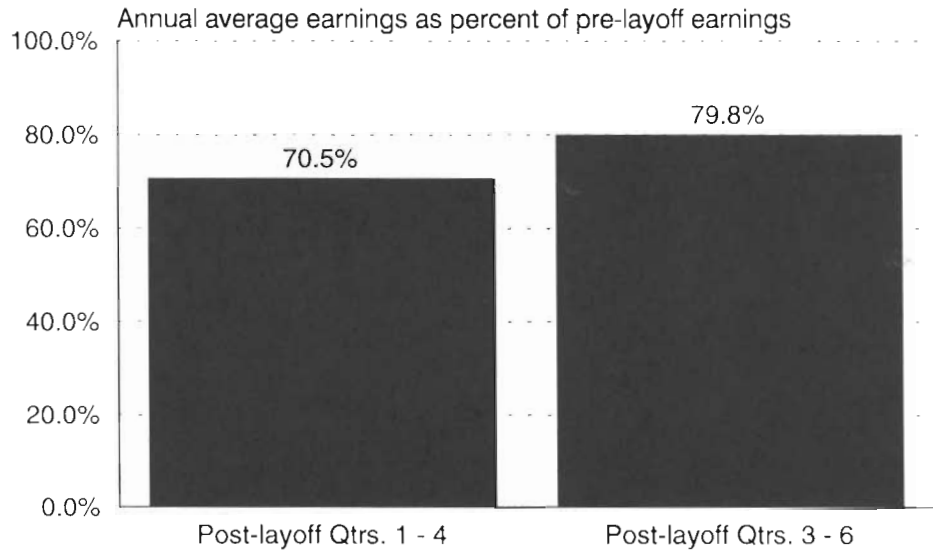
Figure • 14

Roughly, within a year and a half following the layoff, workers had regained only about three-fourths of their pre-layoff earnings. Because these workers had held jobs in a high-paying industry, their rate of earnings recovery may differ from other groups.

**Summary**

Recovering from a layoff takes time and effort. Workers should prepare for a period of unstable employment and decreased earnings, though some will fare well. Many workers will relocate in search of employment, but some will find local employment and stay. For those who do not find new work right away, in a growing economy, other opportunities are likely to emerge—particularly for those willing to try a new occupation or industry.

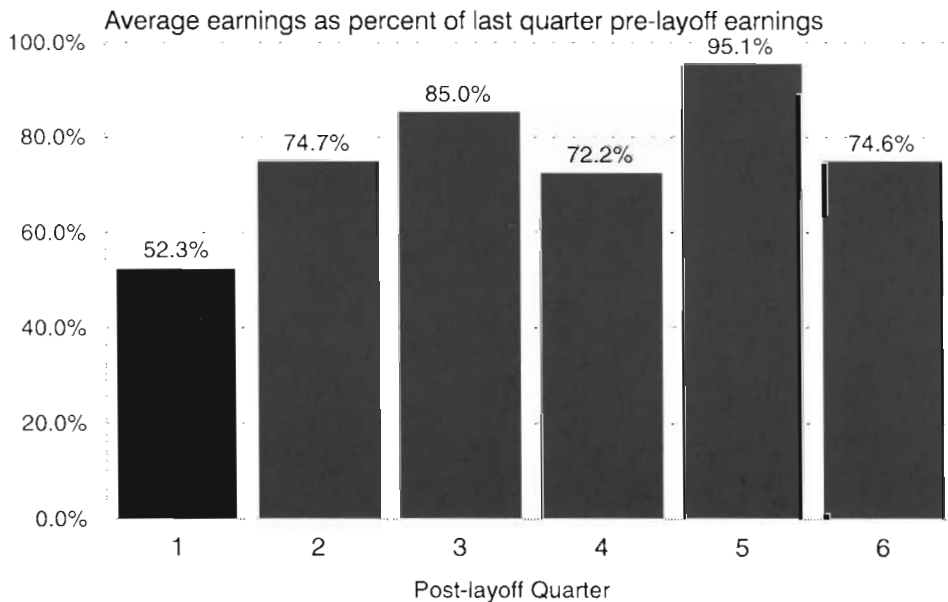
**Workers Earned Less ...**



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Figure • 15

**But Recovered Wages Over Time**



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

*About the authors:*

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Corine Geldhof coordinates public information projects for the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor.

Both authors are located in Juneau.

## Laid-Off Workers Can Find Help

by Corine Geldhof

Since Alaska's territorial days, the Employment Security Division (ESD) of the Alaska Department of Labor has administered the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, designed to ease the financial distress of lost income to unemployed workers and their families. Through a network of 19 electronically-linked local offices statewide, the ESD has a particular interest in identifying factors that can improve a laid-off worker's reentry to employment.

In addition to a comprehensive program that provides laid-off workers with cash benefits during periods of their unemployment, ESD, along with its partner agencies, is also responsible for an array of retraining and reemployment services tailored to meet laid-off workers' individual needs.

The ESD activities range from a "rapid response" program that delivers to laid-off workers and workers who face lay-offs on-site services such as career counseling and job placement, as well as support services including assistance for child care and transportation, training for employment in another job or career, income support, job search allowances, and relocation allowances.

The ESD also is involved in a progressive reemployment program for UI recipients, where people are assessed and offered extensive services intended to hasten their return to employment. Focus is on returning people to work and providing them with the skills by which to do so.

Responding to the needs of those employees affected by the Greens Creek mine closure, ESD's local office in Juneau, the Alaska Employment Service, became the center for coordinating activities with the Mayor's Greens Creek Task Force. Employment Service staff went on-site to the mine, along with staff from the Job Training Partnership Office in the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, to provide an overview of information on training programs available for employees. Staff from both agencies worked closely together to streamline the application processes for unemployment benefits and employment and training programs. A "Greens Creek Help Line" was installed at the Alaska Employment Service office in Juneau, and individual appointments were available to those mine workers who, because of their work schedules, were not available during normal working hours. Employment Service staff also developed a series of workshops for Greens Creek employees with topics that included family trauma counseling, stress management, labor market information, resume writing, interviewing skills, employer expectations, and job search techniques.

More information on ESD assistance programs is available at the local employment service offices listed on the inside back cover of this publication.

# Tourism Steams Ahead

by Kristen Tromble

**A**laska's economy continued to show the effects of summer's end on its seasonal industries. Following the traditional pattern, unemployment rose and the number of jobs fell in October. Alaska's unemployment rate climbed more than a full percentage point in October, to 6.8%. Despite the increase, 1995's unemployment picture continues to compare favorably with recent years. This rate was lower than the October rate for any year since 1990. Over 1,150 fewer people were unemployed this October compared to last. Wage and salary employment began its steep seasonal decline in October, with over-the-month losses of 10,700 jobs. All major industries except government shed jobs in October. In government, gains in the public education sector continued to boost employment.

## Rural areas more sensitive to seasonal swings

While the unemployment rate rose in most areas of the state, rural Alaska tended to experience larger increases. Rural areas are often more dependent on fishing and tourism, industries which lead the seasonal decline. The Aleutians East and Denali Boroughs were particularly hard hit. In the Aleutians East Borough, unemployment climbed nine percentage points from September's rate as a number of fish processing workers were idled between fisheries openings. In the Denali Borough, unemployment increased from 5.3% to 12.9% over the month, as visitor activity around Denali Park and construction work at the Healy Clean Coal project shut down for the season. Kodiak countered the statewide trend with a decrease in the unemployment rate due to activity in the bottomfish fishery.

## Employment gains balance losses

Statewide, the total number of jobs in October 1995 was virtually unchanged from October 1994 with employment estimates showing an increase of 0.3%. Retail and services growth in Anchorage-MatSu and broad growth in the Gulf Coast region helped sustain the employment level. A drag on over-the-year growth came from employment declines in federal government in Southwest, oil and gas in Northern, and the seafood processing and sawmill sectors in Southeast. In Interior, gains in construction related to hard rock mining activity and services helped offset a decline in oil and gas and state govern-

ment employment. This government drop reflected decreased firefighting activity in the Interior this October.

## Tourism wraps up a good summer

Alaska's tourism industry continued its hot performance this summer. The good numbers came despite losses resulting from cruise ship accidents and a threatened ferry strike in Southeast. These losses did hold tourist volume below projections in some areas. The number of independent travelers appeared to rise this year. Air traffic was up in Anchorage and Southeast, and comparable to last year in Fairbanks. Highway traffic was strong and bed tax receipts up. Season assessments from tourist-related businesses such as retail shops and hotels were more mixed this year than last. By nearly all reports, last year, businesses celebrated positive returns. This year, some hotels were full while others had trouble meeting their targets, and some merchants reported tourists were spending less.

## Changes ahead for the cruise industry?

The cruise industry is broadcasting some mixed signals for the future. Though this year's cruise traffic was down in some areas, Holland America Line reported record passenger levels and plans to expand capacity for next season. Meanwhile, Regency Cruises filed for bankruptcy. They lost revenue this summer when an engine room fire resulted in the cancellation of cruises on their vessel *Regent Star*. For next year, increased capacity on other lines should cover the loss of Regency's passengers.

The long-term outlook for the tourism industry has lost a bit of luster with a decline in the projected rate of growth in cruise passenger traffic. This past season, cruise lines lowered fares to attract customers, a sign that, in this sector of the industry high-end demand may be starting to fade. Curtailed state marketing efforts may be a factor in the decline. Upcoming regulatory changes may also affect the economics of the cruise industry.

## Still, tourism growth expected

Despite some concerns, strong performance in the tourism industry is expected to continue for the next few

Table • 1

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

	p/		Changes from			<b>Municipality of Anchorage</b>	r/		Changes from		
	10/95	9/95	10/94	9/95	10/94		10/95	9/95	10/94	9/95	10/94
<b>Alaska</b>											
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	264,400	275,100	263,500	-10,700	900	Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	123,400	125,300	123,000	-1,900	400
Goods-producing	39,900	44,500	40,200	-4,600	-300	Goods-producing	12,900	13,400	13,000	-500	-100
Mining	10,100	10,200	10,800	-100	-700	Mining	2,800	2,800	3,100	0	-300
Construction	15,200	16,000	14,700	-800	500	Construction	8,000	8,400	7,800	-400	200
Manufacturing	14,600	18,300	14,700	-3,700	-100	Manufacturing	2,100	2,200	2,100	-100	0
Durable Goods	3,300	3,400	3,500	-100	-200	Service-producing	110,500	111,900	110,000	-1,400	500
Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,400	2,600	0	-200	Transportation	12,200	12,900	12,700	-700	-500
Nondurable Goods	11,300	14,900	11,200	-3,600	100	Air Transportation	4,300	4,600	4,700	-300	-400
Seafood Processing	8,000	11,600	8,000	-3,600	0	Communications	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Pulp Mills	500	500	500	0	0	Trade	30,100	30,300	29,300	-200	800
Service-producing	224,500	230,600	223,300	-6,100	1,200	Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,300	6,200	-100	0
Transportation	23,100	25,000	23,800	-1,900	-700	Retail Trade	23,900	24,000	23,100	-100	800
Trucking & Warehousing	3,200	3,300	3,000	-100	200	Gen. Merch. & Apparel	5,100	4,900	4,600	200	500
Water Transportation	2,000	2,300	1,900	-300	100	Food Stores	3,300	3,400	3,400	-100	-100
Air Transportation	7,100	7,600	7,700	-500	-600	Eating & Drinking Places	8,100	8,200	7,800	-100	300
Communications	3,800	3,900	3,800	-100	0	Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,200	7,400	7,300	-200	-100
Trade	55,100	57,100	53,900	-2,000	1,200	Services & Misc.	32,500	33,000	31,800	-500	700
Wholesale Trade	8,400	8,800	8,400	-400	0	Hotels & Lodging Places	2,600	2,700	2,800	-100	-200
Retail Trade	46,700	48,300	45,500	-1,600	1,200	Health Services	6,700	6,700	6,300	0	400
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	9,800	9,600	9,300	200	500	Government	28,500	28,300	28,900	200	-400
Food Stores	7,400	7,600	7,300	-200	100	Federal	10,700	10,700	11,000	0	-300
Eating & Drinking Places	15,200	16,400	15,000	-1,200	200	State	8,300	8,200	8,500	100	-200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	12,100	12,500	12,000	-400	100	Local	9,500	9,400	9,400	100	100
Services & Misc.	59,800	62,400	58,700	-2,600	1,100						
Hotels & Lodging Places	6,100	7,700	6,200	-1,600	-100						
Health Services	13,400	13,300	12,600	100	800						
Government	74,400	73,600	74,900	800	-500						
Federal	17,900	18,400	18,600	-500	-700						
State	21,900	21,600	22,300	300	-400						
Local	34,600	33,600	34,000	1,000	600						

Table • 2

## Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/	r/		p/	r/		p/	r/	
	10/95	9/95	10/94	10/95	9/95	10/94	10/95	9/95	10/94
Mining	\$1,256.35	\$1,277.08	\$1,130.77	50.7	50.9	46.4	\$24.78	\$25.09	\$24.37
Construction	1,242.84	1,347.80	1,178.78	47.6	49.9	46.1	26.11	27.01	25.57
Manufacturing	539.35	570.71	534.89	45.4	52.6	44.5	11.88	10.85	12.02
Seafood Processing	414.41	486.21	403.62	48.3	56.8	46.5	8.58	8.56	8.68
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	692.17	680.18	701.70	34.8	35.5	36.7	19.89	19.16	19.12
Trade	419.34	412.83	405.86	33.9	33.7	34.6	12.37	12.25	11.73
Wholesale	652.03	658.82	677.40	38.4	38.8	39.8	16.98	16.98	17.02
Retail	378.33	369.66	356.21	33.1	32.8	33.7	11.43	11.27	10.57
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	489.58	475.62	467.57	36.4	35.6	36.5	13.45	13.36	12.81

Notes to Tables 1-3:

Tables 1&amp;2- Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 3- Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

p/ denotes preliminary estimates.

r/ denotes revised estimates.

Government includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

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

Benchmark: March 1994

## Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work

Southeast Region	p/	r/	Changes from		
	10/95	9/95	10/94	9/95	10/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	35,900	39,000	36,100	-3,100	-200
Goods-producing	6,100	7,450	6,500	-1,350	-400
Mining	200	200	200	0	0
Construction	1,850	1,900	1,850	-50	0
Manufacturing	4,050	5,350	4,450	-1,300	-400
Durable Goods	1,800	1,850	2,050	-50	-250
Lumber & Wood Products	1,650	1,700	1,950	-50	-300
Nondurable Goods	2,250	3,500	2,400	-1,250	-150
Seafood Processing	1,500	2,750	1,700	-1,250	-200
Pulp Mills	550	500	500	50	50
Service-producing	29,800	31,550	29,600	-1,750	200
Transportation	2,800	3,300	2,950	-500	-150
Trade	6,750	7,400	6,700	-650	50
Wholesale Trade	500	600	550	-100	-50
Retail Trade	6,250	6,800	6,150	-550	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,550	1,550	1,600	0	-50
Services & Misc.	6,350	6,900	6,250	-550	100
Government	12,350	12,400	12,100	-50	250
Federal	1,850	2,000	1,900	-150	-50
State	5,350	5,400	5,300	-50	50
Local	5,150	5,000	4,900	150	250

### Anchorage/Mat-Su Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	133,650	135,700	132,700	-2,050	950
Goods-producing	13,750	14,150	13,800	-400	-50
Mining	2,850	2,900	3,200	-50	-350
Construction	8,700	8,950	8,450	-250	250
Manufacturing	2,200	2,300	2,150	-100	50
Service-producing	119,900	121,550	118,900	-1,650	1,000
Transportation	13,200	14,050	13,700	-850	-500
Trade	32,700	32,950	31,650	-250	1,050
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,600	7,800	7,650	-200	-50
Services & Misc.	34,900	35,450	34,050	-550	850
Government	31,500	31,300	31,850	200	-350
Federal	10,800	10,850	11,150	-50	-350
State	9,150	9,100	9,300	50	-150
Local	11,550	11,350	11,400	200	150

### Gulf Coast Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	26,650	28,800	26,000	-2,150	650
Goods-producing	6,600	7,650	6,200	-1,050	400
Mining	1,150	1,250	1,000	-100	150
Construction	1,500	1,600	1,450	-100	50
Manufacturing	3,950	4,800	3,750	-850	200
Seafood Processing	2,600	3,500	2,500	-900	100
Service-producing	20,050	21,150	19,800	-1,100	250
Transportation	2,250	2,350	2,300	-100	-50
Trade	4,950	5,450	4,900	-500	50
Wholesale Trade	600	750	600	-150	0
Retail Trade	4,350	4,700	4,300	-350	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	700	700	700	0	0
Services & Misc.	5,250	5,900	5,150	-650	100
Government	6,900	6,750	6,750	150	150
Federal	650	700	650	-50	0
State	1,850	1,850	1,800	0	50
Local	4,400	4,200	4,300	200	100

Interior Region	p/	r/	Changes from		
	10/95	9/95	10/94	9/95	10/94
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	36,700	38,600	36,700	-1,900	0
Goods-producing	3,700	4,100	3,600	-400	100
Mining	750	800	950	-50	-200
Construction	2,300	2,600	2,050	-300	250
Manufacturing	650	700	600	-50	50
Service-producing	33,000	34,500	33,100	-1,500	-100
Transportation	2,750	3,250	2,750	-500	0
Trade	7,950	8,450	7,850	-500	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,150	1,200	1,100	-50	50
Services & Misc.	8,100	8,850	8,000	-750	100
Government	13,050	12,750	13,400	300	-350
Federal	3,700	3,750	3,750	-50	-50
State	4,800	4,500	5,150	300	-350
Local	4,550	4,500	4,500	50	50

### Fairbanks North Star Borough

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,800	32,700	31,800	-900	0
Goods-producing	3,300	3,600	3,300	-300	0
Mining	550	650	800	-100	-250
Construction	2,150	2,300	1,900	-150	250
Manufacturing	600	650	600	-50	0
Service-producing	28,500	29,100	28,500	-600	0
Transportation	2,200	2,500	2,200	-300	0
Trucking & Warehousing	500	600	450	-100	50
Air Transportation	550	600	650	-50	-100
Communications	300	300	250	0	50
Trade	7,350	7,650	7,300	-300	50
Wholesale Trade	800	850	800	-50	0
Retail Trade	6,550	6,800	6,500	-250	50
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,250	1,300	1,250	-50	0
Food Stores	750	750	750	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,600	2,800	2,600	-200	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,100	1,050	-50	0
Services & Misc.	7,400	7,800	7,250	-400	150
Government	10,500	10,050	10,700	450	-200
Federal	3,000	3,000	3,050	0	-50
State	4,550	4,200	4,750	350	-200
Local	2,950	2,850	2,900	100	50

### Southwest Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	16,250	17,750	16,450	-1,500	-200
Goods-producing	4,050	5,500	4,100	-1,450	-50
Seafood Processing	3,700	5,150	3,600	-1,450	100
Service-producing	12,200	12,250	12,350	-50	-150
Government	5,750	5,500	5,800	250	-50
Federal	750	800	850	-50	-100
State	500	500	450	0	50
Local	4,500	4,200	4,500	300	0

### Northern Region

Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	15,750	15,950	15,950	-200	-200
Goods-producing	5,750	5,750	6,050	0	-300
Mining	5,050	5,050	5,400	0	-350
Service-producing	10,000	10,200	9,900	-200	100
Government	5,000	5,050	5,000	-50	0
Federal	200	250	250	-50	-50
State	300	350	350	-50	-50
Local	4,500	4,450	4,400	50	100



## Unemployment Rates by Region & Census Area

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	p/ 10/95	r/ 9/95	10/94
<b>United States</b>	5.2	5.4	5.4
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	6.8	5.7	7.2
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	5.7	5.0	6.3
Municipality of Anchorage	5.1	4.5	5.6
Mat-Su Borough	8.8	7.6	9.9
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	10.8	9.4	11.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	13.0	8.2	13.1
Kodiak Island Borough	5.2	15.0	5.4
Valdez-Cordova	9.6	5.4	10.0
<b>Interior Region</b>	7.2	5.8	7.6
Denali Borough	12.9	5.3	10.5
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	6.4	5.4	7.0
Southeast Fairbanks	12.3	8.9	12.8
Yukon-Koyukuk	12.9	10.8	11.7
<b>Northern Region</b>	9.1	8.8	9.8
Nome	11.0	10.4	11.7
North Slope Borough	4.3	3.6	4.2
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.1	13.5	14.7
<b>Southeast Region</b>	6.7	5.0	7.1
Haines Borough	8.0	6.2	10.3
Juneau Borough	6.4	4.9	5.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	7.5	5.1	6.7
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketch.	8.9	7.3	10.6
Sitka Borough	4.8	3.9	8.4
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	5.2	4.1	9.3
Wrangell-Petersburg	8.1	5.0	8.2
Yakutat Borough	2.0	1.9	6.4
<b>Southwest Region</b>	7.2	5.6	6.5
Aleutians East Borough	10.3	1.3	2.6
Aleutians West	1.2	1.0	1.9
Bethel	9.1	8.4	10.2
Bristol Bay Borough	6.9	4.1	4.7
Dillingham	6.6	5.4	6.2
Lake & Peninsula Borough	5.9	6.2	5.3
Wade Hampton	13.7	12.4	11.6
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>			
United States	5.5	5.6	5.8
Alaska Statewide	7.2	7.1	7.4

p/ denotes preliminary estimates      r/ denotes revised estimates  
Benchmark: March 1994

- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

years, providing jobs in related industries such as construction, transportation, trade, and services. Several projects are under development, with new hotel capacity high on the list. Two new hotels are slated for Fairbanks. One tower of the Anchorage Hilton is getting a face-lift from its owner, the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. Princess Tours is building a hotel outside Talkeetna. This facility, which will help open the south side of Denali to tourism, is scheduled to open in 1997. Princess Tours also plans to offer air sightseeing packages to Kodiak next season.

Activity is also strong in Southeast. Expansion work at Sitka's Thomsen Harbor should be completed by June. In Ketchikan, Spruce Mill Development Associates is proceeding with plans to build a hotel, restaurants and retail space on a downtown site adjacent to the cruise ship dock. The first phase, including retail and office space and a restaurant, should be completed for next year's tourist season. Prince of Wales Island communities are pushing a proposal to build two ferries that would offer service to Ketchikan and Wrangell, and a new state ferry is in the works which would serve Southeast during the peak summer traffic season starting in 1998.

In Juneau, Goldbelt, Inc., is planning an aggressive expansion into tourism. They are a major backer of Juneau's new tram and visitor center on Mt. Roberts. Currently under construction, the facility, which includes a restaurant, retail space and theater, should open next summer. Goldbelt also has plans for development at Echo Cove which include a ferry dock with high-speed ferry service to communities along northern Lynn Canal. Besides tourist services, this development includes services for area fishers and housing for miners in anticipation of the Kensington mine opening.

Also in Juneau, Franklin Dock Enterprises has started work on a private cruise ship dock scheduled for completion next May. Eventually, the company may also add a smaller dock and retail shops to the development. A local developer is moving forward with plans for a downtown hotel with suites available for longer term stays. Sealaska Corporation and Amptom Alaska are exploring the feasibility of building a 100,000 square foot hotel, restaurant, and retail complex on Juneau's waterfront. Construction could start in 1997.

### Also on the Employment Scene....

While tourism prepares for a new season, activity in other industries continues. A new gold mine opened north of McGrath in the Yukon-Koyukuk census area. The Nixon Fork Mine employs almost 60 people. In the timber industry, Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC) announced it would reopen its Ketchikan sawmill. The company has secured enough timber to run at least one shift of 50 workers through next summer. Some of these jobs will likely be filled by KPC employees now working at its pulp mill. In transportation, United Parcel Service announced plans to triple the size of its international cargo shipping facility in Anchorage. The expansion should be completed by the fall of 1997. Following the closure of MarkAir, MarkAir Express filed for bankruptcy and announced the layoff of about 220 employees. The company plans to cut service to some areas and regroup as primarily a freight carrier. Other airlines expect to expand to cover the service losses.



# Alaska Employment Service

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Anchorage: Phone 269-4800

Bethel: Phone 543-2210

Dillingham: Phone 842-5579

Eagle River: Phone 694-6904/07

Mat-Su: Phone 376-2407/08

Fairbanks: Phone 451-2871

Glennallen: Phone 822-3350

Kotzebue: Phone 442-3280

Nome: Phone 443-2626/2460

Tok: Phone 883-5629

Valdez: Phone 835-4910

Kenai: Phone 283-4304/4377/4319

Homer: Phone 235-7791

Kodiak: Phone 486-3105

Seward: Phone 224-5276

Juneau: Phone 465-4562

Petersburg: Phone 772-3791

Sitka: Phone 747-3347/3423/6921

Ketchikan: Phone 225-3181/82/83



## Alaska Economic Regions

The Alaska Department of Labor shall foster and promote the welfare of the wage earners of the state and improve their working conditions and advance their opportunities for profitable employment.