

ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

JULY 2010

The Trends 100: **Alaska's largest private employers in 2009**

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Alaska's Teachers

Genius without education is like silver in the mine

Employment Scene

Unemployment rate at 8.3 percent in May



**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Sean Parnell, Governor
Commissioner Click Bishop**

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska
Commissioner Click Bishop

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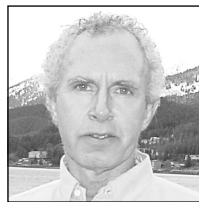
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Top 100 Remain Strong

By Commissioner Click Bishop

For 24 years, *Trends* has published its annual list of top 100 employers in Alaska, which in 2009 had a combined payroll of \$4.2 billion.

Although this year's list is similar to last year's, nine "newcomers" have joined this exclusive club. The variety of these employers – from tourism to hard rock mining to retail – is a good sign for Alaska's economy.

Alaska's ten largest employers of 2009 were the same as in 2008. They include several large retailers, a hospital, oil industry related firms, and a seafood processor. Providence Health & Services, the perennial front runner since 2001, remains Alaska's only private-sector employer with more than 4,000 employees, a distinction it has held for the past three years.

If the public-sector was included, Alaska's largest private-sector employers would be bumped out of their positions in the top 10. The largest public-sector employers include the federal government (both military and civilians), State of Alaska, University of Alaska, Anchorage School District and Municipality of Anchorage. These employers are significantly larger than the state's largest private firms. For example, there were 23,077 members of the uniformed military, 18,139 state workers and 17,065 federal civilian employees.

Native organizations continue to be well represented on the *Trends* 100 list. Almost 20 percent of *Trends* 100 firms are either Native Alaskan nonprofits or subsidiaries of one of Alaska's 13 native regional corporations.

More than 20 percent of the *Trends* 100 firms are nonprofits, and they employed almost 25 percent of the list's work force. Many of these nonprofits are health care related and are among the largest employers in their communities.

Alaska continues to meet the challenges of today's economy. In 2009, the "1,000-plus club" includes 18 employers – one less than a year ago. In 1999, there were only 10 employers with more than 1,000 employees and only six when the list was first published in 1987.

Alaska Teachers

This issue also has a snapshot of Alaska's teachers. Our largest cities are home to most of Alaska's teachers. The Anchorage School District employs more than one-third of all resident teachers, followed by Mat-Su Borough Schools and Fairbanks North Star School District.

About 70 percent of Alaska's teachers are female. In 2008, the average age for all resident teachers was 44. The most compelling statistic, however, is that more than 34 percent of current teachers are eligible to retire. Alaska will need more teachers. Another consideration, research shows that teachers trained in Alaska remain in the state – working as educators – longer than teachers trained outside of the state.

Alaska's Largest Private Employers In 2009

For the third year in a row, Providence Health & Services remained the only private-sector employer in the state with a work force of more than 4,000 employees.¹ Continuing its recent growth, the company added 200 workers in 2009. (See Exhibit 1.) Wal-Mart/Sam's Club remained the second largest and was the only other private employer with more than 3,000 employees. Carrs/Safeway was previously in that group but dipped slightly below 3,000 employees.

Smallest group of big movers ever

Big movers are defined as employers that climbed by 10 or more rankings in one year. In 2009 only two companies managed to accomplish this feat, a significant decline from eight the year before. (See Exhibit 4.) This is the smallest number of big movers on record since the inception of the *Trends* 100 in 1987. One explanation for the lack of big movers is the weak economy; Alaska's 2009 employment declined for the first time in 22 years.

More newcomers than usual

With less dramatic change in the relative rankings than usual, the *Trends* 100 list doesn't appear much different from last year. One notable difference is that nine firms made the list of newcomers in 2009, which is one of the larg-

¹ Each reference in this article to the number of employees a company or organization has, or the employment range the company or organization's employment falls into, is the average monthly employment in 2009 based on the quarterly employer reports of wages and employment that nearly all Alaska's employers submit to the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, as required by state unemployment insurance laws. This excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers; for estimates of fish harvesting employment, and other fisheries data, go to labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm.

est groups ever for this category. (See Exhibit 3.) These new employers represent an eclectic group of industries. Some are relatively new to the Alaska scene, but others have been around a long time.

Royal Highway Tours, Frontier Community Services, Access Alaska and ERA Aviation were among the top 100 before and have made it back onto the list. Other firms have just recently grown large enough to find a place on the list for the first time.

Two notable arrivals are Pogo Mine and Target. The Pogo Mine is located near Delta Junction and mining began there in 2006. Since then, the mine's employment has grown enough to make it Alaska's fourth largest hard-rock mining employer and the 97th largest employer. In the retail industry, Target opened its first store in 2008 and has expanded to three stores (two in Anchorage and one in Wasilla). With these new stores, Target is 62nd on the list. Other first-timers include Cook Inlet Tribal Council (96th), C Care Services (99th) and Subway (100th).

The 1,000-plus club stays on track

In 2009, there were 18 employers in the state with 1,000 or more employees – one less employer than the previous year. Wells Fargo moved out of the 1,000-plus group but is still Alaska's 20th largest private-sector employer. Just a decade ago, there were only 10 employers in the 1,000-plus club and only six in 1987.² Obviously, the state's work force has continued to grow along with the size of its largest employers.

² The first year the *Trends* 100 was published as a list of the top 50 employers.

10 largest firms maintained their places

Alaska's 10 largest firms in 2009 were the same group as in 2008. The only change was that BP Exploration moved from ninth to seventh largest. Six of the top 10 employers in 2009 were on the list a decade earlier. (See Exhibit 7.) The remaining four companies were not among the ten largest a decade ago. In 1999, these four firms ranked as follows: BP Exploration Alaska³ (11th), CH2M HILL⁴ (17th), NANA Management Services⁵ (21st), and Trident Seafoods (39th).

Trends 100 firms employ one-third of the private-sector

Alaska's 100 largest firms employed 76,300 wage and salary workers in 2009, or 32 percent of all private-sector wage and salary employment. Ten years ago the comparable figures were 58,000 and 29 percent. Employment growth in 2009 was flat for *Trends* 100 firms, but that was better than the 1.1 percent decline in Alaska's overall private-sector employment. The stronger performance among *Trends* 100 firms is most often the norm rather than the exception.

In 2009, the state's 100 largest private-sector employers had a combined payroll of \$4.2 billion. There were seven employers with a payroll of \$100 million or more, and 16 employers with a payroll of less than \$10 million.

The average annual wages paid by these employers was \$55,136, compared to \$46,050 in the private-sector overall and \$48,321 for the public-sector. The strong presence of high paying oil industry employers on the *Trends* 100 list explains the higher than average earnings. These highly paid oil industry workers earned an average of \$117,540. More than 14 percent of all *Trends* 100 employment is oil industry related, compared to only 5 percent for the private-sector as a whole.

High salaries in the oil industry bolster the average earnings of *Trends* 100 workers, but earn-

ings vary widely for the rest of the workers and are sometimes quite low. For example, workers in the retail and manufacturing industries had average earnings of \$28,694 and \$29,721, respectively.

Native organizations continue to be large employers

Sixteen of the 100 largest employers are either Native nonprofit organizations or subsidiaries of one of Alaska's 13 regional Native corporations. (See Exhibit 5.) The *Trends* 100 is a listing of individual firms without consideration for partial or full ownership, and the size of the regional Native corporations is often partially concealed. If the subsidiaries of the regional corporations were combined under the heading of their parent corporations, most would be counted among the state's largest employers.

Despite this definitional limitation, Native organizations are well represented in the *Trends* 100. The single largest group among these employers is the nonprofit health and social services

Counting the Workers

Providing employment ranges rather than specific employment

Trends 100, the list of companies and organizations with the highest average monthly employment, was first published as the top 50 employers in *Trends*' July 1987 issue.

Since then, confidentiality restrictions for releasing individual company employment numbers have come full circle. Initially, employers had to give permission before their employment could be released. That restriction was eventually eased, until recently when federal regulations were promulgated that employment for individual private-sector employers couldn't be publicly released without each employer's consent.

Due to the time it would take to obtain each company's permission, the *Trends* 100 now gives a range that a company's exact employment falls into, rather than the specific employment number. The ranking system hasn't changed, though. It's still based on the specific employment number.

³ Formerly BP Exploration

⁴ Formerly VECO Operations

⁵ Formerly NANA Marriott, Joint Venture

1 Alaska's 100 Largest Private-Sector Employers

Employment in 2009

Rank ¹	Firm Name	Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ²	Business Activity	Headquarters or Largest Work Site	Web Site
1	Providence Health & Services	4,000+	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage	providence.org/alaska
2	Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	3,000 to 3,249	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage	walmartstores.com
3	Carrs/Safeway	2,750 to 2,999	Grocery	Anchorage	carrsqc.com
4	Fred Meyer	2,500 to 2,749	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage	www.fredmeyer.com
5	ASRC Energy Services	2,250 to 2,499	Oilfield services	Anchorage	www.asrcenergy.com
6	Trident Seafoods	"	Seafood processing	Akutan	tridentseafoods.com
7	BP Exploration Alaska	1,750 to 1,999	Oil and gas extraction	Anchorage	bp.com
8	NANA Management Services	"	Catering/lodging/security	Anchorage	www.nmsusa.com
9	CH2M HILL	"	Oilfield services	Anchorage	ch2m.com
10	Alaska Airlines	1,500 to 1,749	Air carrier	Anchorage	alaskaair.com
11	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) ³	"	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage	anthc.org
12	GCI Communications	1,250 to 1,499	Communications	Anchorage	gci.com
13	Banner Health (includes Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	"	Hospital/medical center	Fairbanks	www.bannerhealth.com
14	Southcentral Foundation ⁴	"	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage	southcentralfoundation.com
15	FedEx	1,000 to 1,249	Airfreight/courier service	Anchorage	fedex.com
16	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	"	Hospital/medical center	Bethel	www.ykhc.org
17	ConocoPhillips	"	Oil and gas extraction	Anchorage	conocophillips.com
18	Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	"	Financial services	Anchorage	alaskausa.com
19	UPS	750 to 999	Airfreight/courier service	Anchorage	ups.com
20	Wells Fargo	"	Financial services	Anchorage	wellsfargo.com
21	Doyon Universal Services	"	Catering/security	Anchorage	doyon.com
22	The Alaska Club	"	Health club	Anchorage	thealaskaclub.com
23	McDonald's Restaurants of Alaska	"	Eating establishment	Anchorage	mcdonalds.com
24	Alaska Regional Hospital	"	Hospital/medical center	Anchorage	alaskaregional.com
25	Home Depot	"	Building products	Anchorage	homedepot.com
26	SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)	"	Social Services/health care	Sitka	www.searhc.org
27	Alaska Communication Systems (ACS)	"	Communications	Anchorage	acsalaska.com
28	Icicle Seafoods	"	Seafood processing	Petersburg	icicleseafoods.com
29	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	"	Transportation	Anchorage	alyeska-pipe.com
30	UniSea	"	Seafood processing	Dutch Harbor	unisea.com
31	Alaska Commercial Company	"	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage	acvaluecenter.com
32	Spenard Builders Supply	"	Building products	Anchorage	sbsalaska.com
33	Costco	"	Grocery/general merchandise	Anchorage	costco.com
34	Lowe's	"	Building products	Anchorage	lowes.com
35	First National Bank Alaska	500 to 749	Financial services	Anchorage	fnbalaska.com
36	Hope Community Resources	"	Social services	Anchorage	hopealaska.org
37	First Student (formerly Laidlaw Transit)	"	Transportation Services	Anchorage	firststudentinc.com
38	Nabors Alaska Drilling	"	Oilfield services	Anchorage	nabors.com
39	Peter Pan Seafoods	"	Seafood processing	King Cove	www.ppsf.com
40	Mat-Su Regional Medical Center	"	Hospital/medical center	Mat-Su	matsuregional.com
41	Westward Seafoods	"	Seafood processing	Unalaska	westwardseafoods.com
42	Ocean Beauty Seafoods	"	Seafood processing	Kodiak	www.oceanbeauty.com
43	Schlumberger Technologies	"	Oilfield services	Anchorage	slb.com
44	Udelhoven Oilfield System Services	"	Oilfield services	Anchorage	udelhoven.com
45	Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	"	Hotels	Denali Park	princesslodges.com
46	Job Ready (ReadyCare)	"	Voc. rehabilitation services	Anchorage	www.readycareak.com
47	Tanana Chiefs Conference	"	Social services/health care	Fairbanks	www.tananachiefs.org
48	Alyeska Resort (includes O'Malley's on the Green)	"	Hotel/resort	Girdwood	alyeskaresort.com
49	PenAir	250 to 499	Air carrier	Anchorage	www.penair.com
50	Carlisle Enterprises	"	Trucking/warehousing	Anchorage	www.carlisle.biz

(Continued on next page)

Alaska's 100 Largest Private-Sector Employers

Employment in 2009 (Continued)



Rank ¹	Firm Name	Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ²	Business Activity	Headquarters or Largest Work Site	Web Site
51	Peak Oilfield Services Company	250 to 499	Oilfield services	Anchorage	www.peakalaska.com
52	Maniilaq Association	"	Social services/health care	Kotzebue	www.maniilaq.org
53	Alaska Consumer Direct Personal Care	"	Home health	Anchorage	consumerdirectonline.net/alaska
54	Royal Highway Tours	"	Scenic and sightseeing transp.	Anchorage	www.princesslodges.com
55	ARAMARK	"	Catering/concessionaire	Denali Park	www.aramark.com
56	Fairbanks Gold Mining Company (Fort Knox)	"	Mining	Fairbanks	kinross.com
57	Horizon Lines of Alaska	"	Water transportation	Anchorage	horizonlines.com
58	Teck Cominco Alaska (Red Dog Mine)	"	Mining	Red Dog	www.teck.com
59	Norton South Health Corporation	"	Health care	Nome	nortonoundhealth.org
60	NORCON	"	Oilfield services	Anchorage	www.norcon.com
61	SMG of Alaska (Sullivan Arena, others)	"	Facilities support services	Anchorage	smgworld.com
62	Target	"	General merchandise	Anchorage	target.com
63	Colaska (QAP, SECON and Exclusive Paving)	"	Construction	Anchorage	colaska.com
64	Assets	"	Social services	Anchorage	assetsinc.org
65	Denali Foods (Taco Bell)	"	Eating establishments	Anchorage	tacobell.com
66	Chevron	"	Oil and gas extraction	Anchorage	chevron.com
67	Sears	"	General merchandise	Anchorage	sears.com
68	Rural Alaska Community Action Program	"	Social services	Anchorage	ruralcap.com
69	North Pacific Seafoods	"	Seafood processing	Kodiak	northpacificseafoods.com
70	North Star Behavioral Health System	"	Health care	Anchorage	northstarbehavioral.com
71	Ketchikan General Hospital	"	Hospital/medical center	Ketchikan	peacehealth.org
72	Crowley Marine	"	Coastal freight transport	Anchorage	crowley.com
73	Odom Corporation	"	Wholesale	Anchorage	odomcorp.com
74	Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	"	Health care	Dillingham	bbahc.org
75	Tesoro Northstore Company	"	Retail/gas stations	Anchorage	tsocorp.com
76	Halliburton Energy Services	"	Oilfield services	Anchorage	halliburton.com
77	NANA WorelyParsons	"	Engineering services	Anchorage	www.nana-colt.com
78	Hickel Investment Company (Hotel Captain Cook)	"	Hotel/real estate	Anchorage	captaincook.com
79	Westmark Hotels	"	Hotels	Anchorage	westmarkhotels.com
80	Greens Creek Mining Company	"	Mining	Juneau	hecla-mining.com
81	Lithia Motors	"	Car dealerships	Anchorage	lithia.com
82	Holiday Stationstores	"	Retail/gas stations	Anchorage	holidaystationstores.com
83	Chugach Electric Association	"	Utility	Anchorage	chugachelectric.com
84	Pizza Hut	"	Eating establishment	Anchorage	pizzahut.com
85	Nordstrom	"	Apparel	Anchorage	nordstrom.com
86	Delta Air Lines (formerly Northwest Airlines)	"	Air carrier	Anchorage	delta.com
87	Access Alaska	"	Social Services	Anchorage	www.accessalaska.org
88	Columbia Sussex (Anchorage Marriott, Hilton Anchorage)	"	Hotels	Anchorage	columbiasussex.com
89	AT&T Alascom	"	Communications	Anchorage	attalasc.com
90	ERA Aviation	"	Air carrier	Anchorage	www.frontierflying.com
91	Chugach Development Corporation	"	Facilities support services	Anchorage	www.chugach-ak.com
92	Matanuska Telephone Association	"	Communications	Palmer	mta-telco.com
93	Northrim Bank	"	Financial services	Anchorage	northrim.com
94	Doyon Drilling	"	Oilfield services	Anchorage	doyondrilling.com
95	Salvation Army-Alaska	"	Social services	Anchorage	salvationarmyusa.org
96	Cook Inlet Tribal Council	"	Social services	Anchorage	citci.com
97	Pogo Mine	"	Mining	Delta Junction	www.smm.co.jp/E
98	Frontier Community Services	"	Social Services	Soldotna	www.fcsonline.org
99	C Care Services	"	Health Care	Anchorage	ccareak.com
100	Subway	"	Eating establishment	Anchorage	subway.com

¹ When two or more employers had the same number of employees, they were ranked by unrounded employment.

² These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number.

³ This count excludes approximately 350 of ANTHC's federal employees.

⁴ This count excludes approximately 127 of Southcentral Foundation's federal employees.

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

2 Trends 100 by Industry

Employment in 2009

	Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ¹		Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ¹
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING			
Mining (except oil and gas)			
Fairbanks Gold Mining Company (Fort Knox)	250 to 499		
Teck Cominco Alaska (Red Dog Mine)	"		
Greens Creek Mining Company	"		
Pogo Mine	"		
Oil and Gas Extraction and Oilfield Services			
ASRC Energy Services	2,250 to 2,499		
BP Exploration Alaska	1,750 to 1,999		
CH2M Hill	"		
ConocoPhillips	1,000 to 1,249		
Nabors Alaska Drilling	500 to 749		
Schlumberger Technologies	"		
Udelhoven Oilfield System Services	"		
Peak Oilfield Service Company	250 to 499		
NORCON	"		
Chevron	"		
Halliburton Energy Services	"		
Doyon Drilling	"		
CONSTRUCTION			
Colaska (QAP, SECON, and Exclusive Paving)	250 to 499		
MANUFACTURING			
Seafood Processing			
Trident Seafoods	2,250 to 2,499		
Icicle Seafoods	750 to 799		
UniSea	"		
Peter Pan Seafoods	500 to 749		
Westward Seafoods	"		
Ocean Beauty Seafoods	"		
North Pacific Seafoods	250 to 499		
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES			
Trade			
Wholesale			
Odom Corporation	250 to 499		
Retail			
Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	3,000 to 3,249		
Carrs/Safeway	2,750 to 2,999		
Fred Meyer	2,500 to 2,749		
Home Depot	750 to 999		
Alaska Commercial Company	"		
Spenard Builders Supply	"		
Costco	"		
Lowe's	"		
Target	250 to 499		
Sears	"		
Tesoro Northstore Company	"		
Lithia Motors	"		
Holiday Stationstores	"		
Nordstrom	"		
Transportation			
Alaska Airlines	1,500 to 1,749		
FedEx	1,000 to 1,249		
UPS	750 to 999		
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	"		
First Student (formerly Laidlaw Transit)	500 to 749		
Transportation (Continued)			
PenAir		250 to 499	
Carlile Enterprises		"	
Royal Highway Tours		"	
Horizon Lines of Alaska		"	
Crowley Marine		"	
Delta Air Lines (formerly Northwest Airlines)		"	
ERA Aviation		"	
Utilities			
Chugach Electric Association		250 to 499	
INFORMATION			
Telecommunications			
GCI Communications		1,250 to 1,499	
Alaska Communication Systems (ACS)		750 to 999	
AT&T Alascom		250 to 499	
Matanuska Telephone Association		"	
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES			
Finance and Insurance			
Alaska USA Federal Credit Union		1,000 to 1,249	
Wells Fargo		750 to 999	
First National Bank Alaska		500 to 749	
Northrim Bank		250 to 499	
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES			
Administrative and Support Services			
SMG of Alaska (Sullivan Arena, others)		250 to 499	
NANA WorleyParsons		"	
Chugach Development Corporation		"	
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES			
Health Services and Social Assistance			
Providence Health & Services		4,000+	
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)		1,500 to 1,749	
Banner Health (includes Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)		1,250 to 1,499	
Southcentral Foundation		"	
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation		1,000 to 1,249	
Alaska Regional Hospital		750 to 999	
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)		"	
Hope Community Resources		500 to 749	
Mat-Su Regional Medical Center		"	
Job Ready (ReadyCare)		"	
Tanana Chiefs Conference		"	
Manilaq Association		250 to 499	
Alaska Consumer Direct Personal Care		"	
Norton Sound Health Corporation		"	
Assets		"	
Rural Alaska Community Action Program		"	
North Star Behavioral Health System		"	
Ketchikan General Hospital		"	
Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation		"	
Access Alaska		"	
Salvation Army-Alaska		"	
Cook Inlet Tribal Council		"	
Frontier Community Services		"	
C Care Services		"	

(Continued on next page)

organizations. (See Exhibit 5.) Cook Inlet Tribal Council is a new employer on the list, but two others dropped off this past year – Harpoon Construction and the Association of Village Council Presidents.

The largest firm in the Alaska Native group is ASRC Energy Services, a wholly owned subsidiary for Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. With over 2,300 employees, it's the fifth largest private-sector employer in the state, up from 15th a decade ago. Two other oilfield service companies are Doyon Drilling, a subsidiary of Doyon Regional Corporation, and Peak Oilfield Services which is partially owned by Cook Inlet Region Incorporated.

Nonprofits flex their muscle

Nonprofits are among the largest employers in the state. (See Exhibit 6.) In fact, 22 of the 100 largest firms are nonprofits. They employ 23 percent of the *Trends 100's* work force. The list of nonprofits is six longer than it was a decade ago. Three more firms joined the list in 2009: Frontier Community Services, Access Alaska and Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

Most of these nonprofits rely heavily on public-sector revenues to operate and most provide health care, social services, or a combination of both. The Maniilaq Association is a typical example of these large nonprofits. Maniilaq operates a regional hospital in Kotzebue and provides health care and social services to the surrounding villages in the region.

Nonprofit health care organizations on the list are often the largest or second largest employers in their respective communities. Providence Health is Anchorage's largest employer and also the largest in the state. Other examples include the Norton Sound Health Corporation (Nome), Bristol Bay Health Corporation (Dillingham), Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (Bethel), Banner Health (Fairbanks) and Mat-Su Regional Medical Center (Mat-Su Borough). Around-the-clock services provided seven days a week make health care one of Alaska's largest industries.

The Trends 100 by Industry 2 Employment in 2009 (Continued)

Average Monthly
Employment
in 2009¹

LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

Accommodation

Alaska Hotel Properties (Princess Hotels)	500 to 749
Alyeska Resort (includes O'Malley's on the Green)	"
Hickel Investment Company (Hotel Captain Cook)	250 to 499
Westmark Hotels	"
Columbia Sussex (Anchorage Marriott, Hilton Anchorage)	"

Food Services and Drinking Places

NANA Management Services	1,750 to 1,999
Doyon Universal Services	750 to 999
McDonald's Restaurants of Alaska	"
ARAMARK	250 to 499
Denali Foods (Taco Bell)	"
Pizza Hut	"
Subway	"

Recreation

The Alaska Club	750 to 999
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¹ These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number. *Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

Nine New Players Make the List 3 More newcomers than usual

Average Monthly
Employment
in 2009¹

Royal Highway Tours	250 to 499
Target	"
ERA Aviation	"
Cook Inlet Tribal Council	"
Pogo Mine	"
Frontier Community Services	"
C Care Services	"
Subway	"
Access Alaska	"

¹ These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number. *Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

The Big Movers In 2009 4 Ranking up by at least 10 since 2008

	Change in Top 100 Rank from 2008 to 2009	Jump in Places
Rural Alaska Community Action Program	83rd to 68th	15
Odom Corporation	92nd to 73rd	19

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

5 Alaska Native Employers Employment in 2009

	Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ¹
1 ASRC Energy Services	2,250 to 2,499
2 NANA Management Services	1,750 to 1,999
3 Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)	1,500 to 1,749
4 Southcentral Foundation	1,250 to 1,499
5 Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249
6 Doyon Universal Services	750 to 999
7 SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)	"
8 Tanana Chiefs Conference	500 to 749
9 Peak Oilfield Service Company	250 to 499
10 Maniilaq Association	"
11 Norton Sound Health Corporation	"
12 Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	"
13 NANA WorelyParsons	"
14 Chugach Development Corporation	"
15 Doyon Drilling	"
16 Cook Inlet Tribal Council	"

¹These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number.

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

6 The Biggest Nonprofits in 2009 Nonprofits are almost a fourth of Trends 100

	Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ¹
1 Providence Health & Services	4,000+
2 Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)	1,500 to 1,749
3 Banner Health Systems (includes Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	1,250 to 1,499
4 Southcentral Foundation	"
5 Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249
6 Alaska USA Federal Credit Union	"
7 SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Corporation (SEARHC)	750 to 999
8 Hope Community Resources	500 to 749
9 Mat-Su Regional Medical Center	"
10 Tanana Chiefs Conference	"
11 Maniilaq Association	250 to 499
12 Norton Sound Health Corporation	"
13 Assets	"
14 Rural Alaska Community Action Program	"
15 Ketchikan General Hospital	"
16 Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation	"
17 Chugach Electric Association	"
18 Access Alaska	"
19 Matanuska Telephone Association	"
20 Salvation Army-Alaska	"
21 Cook Inlet Tribal Council	"
22 Frontier Community Services	"

¹These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number.

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

Most oil industry employers are on the list

Unlike any other industry, nearly all of the oil industry employers in the state are on the *Trends* 100 list. (See Exhibit 2.) In 2009, *Trends* 100 firms employed 86 percent of the oil industry's workers. This capital-intensive industry generally favors both large oil producers and large oilfield service companies.

Retail's list is long

In 2009, the number of retail employers in the *Trends* 100 decreased by one. Target was added to the list, but JCPenny and Alaska Sales and Service fell off. Still, the retail industry accounted for 19 percent of all *Trends* 100 employment – the single largest piece of this employment pie.

Retail's payroll has much less impact than its employment numbers. Only 9 percent of the *Trends* 100 payroll comes from retail. Low wages and a preponderance of part-time and seasonal employment reduce retail's contribution to payroll.

The 14 retailers on the *Trends* 100 accounted for 42 percent of Alaska's retail employment in 2009. The other 58 percent of the retail workforce was distributed amongst nearly 2,000 smaller retailers.

Manufacturing is seafood processing

Manufacturing is one of Alaska's smaller industries that employs just 5 percent of the private wage and salary work force, and nearly half (49 percent) of the state's manufacturing employment is represented by seven seafood processing employers on the *Trends* 100 list. (See Exhibit 2.) Just a decade ago, there were 14 manufacturing employers on the list, including timber companies and other types of manufactures. Since then, all but the seafood processors have fallen away.

What's Happened in 10 Years

Health care moves to the top



Top 10 Employers in 2009		Top 10 Employers in 1999		
	Average Monthly Employment ¹		Average Monthly Employment	
1	Providence Health & Services	4,000+	1 Carrs/Safeway	3,902
2	Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	3,000 to 3,249	2 Providence Health & Services	3,027
3	Carrs/Safeway	2,750 to 2,999	3 Fred Meyer	2,015
4	Fred Meyer	2,500 to 2,749	4 Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	1,706
5	ASRC Energy Services	2,250 to 2,499	5 Alaska Airlines	1,640
6	Trident Seafoods	"	6 ARCO Alaska (now ConocoPhillips)	1,440
7	BP Exploration Alaska	1,750 to 1,999	7 National Bank of Alaska (now Wells Fargo)	1,181
8	NANA Management Services	1,750 to 1,999	8 Lutheran Health Systems (now Banner Health Systems)	1,090
9	CH2M HILL	"	9 FedEx	1,071
10	Alaska Airlines	1,500 to 1,749	10 AK Petroleum Contractors (now ASRC Energy Services)	1,039

¹ These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number.
 Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

The Largest Private-Sector Employers by Area

Alaska, 2009



Area	Employer	Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ¹
Statewide	Providence Health & Services	4000+
Aleutians West Census Area	UniSea	750 to 999
Aleutians East Borough	Trident Seafoods	"
Anchorage, Municipality of	Providence Health & Services ²	3,500 to 3,749
Bethel Census Area	Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation	1,000 to 1,249
Bristol Bay Borough	Trident Seafoods	250 to 499
Denali Borough	ARAMARK	"
Dillingham Census Area	Icicle Seafoods	500 to 749
Fairbanks North Star Borough	Banner Health (includes Fairbanks Memorial Hospital)	1,250 to 1,499
Haines Borough	Ocean Beauty Seafoods	1 to 99
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	Point Sophia Development	100 to 250
Juneau Borough	Greens Creek Mining Company	250 to 499
Kenai Peninsula Borough	Central Peninsula General Hospital	500 to 749
Ketchikan-Gateway Borough	Ketchikan General Hospital	250 to 499
Kodiak Island Borough	Trident Seafoods	"
Lake and Peninsula Borough	Trident Seafoods	1 to 99
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Mat-Su Regional Medical Center	500 to 749
Nome Census Area	Norton Sound Health Corporation	250 to 499
North Slope Borough	ASRC Energy Services	2,000 to 2,249
Northwest Arctic Borough	Teck Cominco Alaska (Red Dog Mine)	250 to 499
Petersburg, City of	Icicle Seafoods	100 to 250
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)	1 to 99
Sitka Borough	SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)	250 to 499
Skagway, Municipality of	White Pass Railroad	100 to 250
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	Pogo Mine	250 to 499
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	Alyeska Pipeline Service Company	"
Wade Hampton Census Area	Kwik'pak Fisheries	1 to 99
Wrangell City and Borough	Alaska Island Community Service	"
Yakutat Borough	Yakutat Seafoods	1 to 99
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	Tanana Chiefs Conference	100 to 250

¹ These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number.

² Providence's Anchorage employment only

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

9

Adding in Government The top 10 in 2009

	Average Monthly Employment in 2009 ¹
1 Uniformed Military	23,077
2 State of Alaska	18,139
3 Federal Civilians	17,065
4 University of Alaska	7,218
5 Anchorage School District	7,006
6 Providence Health & Services	4,000+
7 Municipality of Anchorage	3,110
8 Wal-Mart/Sam's Club	3,000 to 3,249
9 Carrs/Safeway	2,750 to 2,999
10 Fred Meyer	2,500 to 2,749

¹The employment ranges listed here are those that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number.

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

Seafood is often the largest employer in smaller areas

Many of the top employers in the smaller geographic areas of the state are seafood processors. (See Exhibit 8.) In fact, more than one-third of Alaska's geographic areas are led by a seafood processing company. Many of these employers don't show up on the statewide *Trends 100* but are important to their local communities.

Public-sector remains largest employer

When the public-sector is considered, the state's top ten employers change. (See Exhibit 9.) Only four private-sector employers remain in the top 10: Providence Health, Wal-Mart/Sam's Club, Carrs/Safeway and Fred Meyer. This is no surprise – given the size of the state's public-sector work force, the large presence of the military, and the fact that public-sector organizations tend to be large.

A Safety Minute

According to OSHA¹ regulation 29 CFR 1926. 106.(d): when the location of a construction project takes place over or adjacent to water, the employer is required to provide one lifesaving skiff that is immediately available. For a life-saving skiff to be considered as being "immediately available" it:

1. Must be in the water or capable of being quickly launched by one person.
2. There must be at least one person present and specifically designated to respond to water emergencies and operate the skiff at all times when there are employees above water.
3. When the operator is on break another operator must be designated to provide requisite coverage while employees are above water.
4. The designated operator must either man the skiff at all times or remain in the immediate area such that the operator can quickly reach the skiff and get underway.
5. The skiff operator may be assigned other tasks provided the tasks do not interfere with the operator's ability to quickly reach the skiff and get underway.
6. A communication system, such as a walkie-talkie, must be used to inform the skiff operator of an emergency and to inform the operator where the skiff is needed.
7. The skiff must be equipped with both a motor and oars.

For further assistance, contact the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Training Section at (800) 656-4972, or in Anchorage at (907) 269-4955.

¹ OSHA is an acronym for the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration.

“Genius without education is like silver in the mine.” *Benjamin Franklin*

Although Franklin had finished his formal education by the time he was 10 years old, he appreciated the importance of teachers as miners of young minds. Alaska's teachers who engage our students and promote their learning are the subject of this article.

Who are they?

According to Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development wage files,¹ almost 14,000 teachers worked at some time in Alaska during 2008. The quarterly average was about 10,450 workers. Of those, about 8,000 were resident² Alaskans who worked all four quarters and earned at least \$15,000 that year. (See Exhibit 1.)

Vocational education teachers earned the highest average wages at more than \$59,000 a year while elementary teachers earned the least, averaging about \$49,000 a year. Part of this difference is likely because wages tend to grow with experience. The average age of vocational education teachers is five years higher than for elementary teachers. (See Exhibit 1.)

More than 70 percent of all Alaska resident teachers were female in 2008. Females accounted for almost 93 percent of all kindergarten

teachers. At the other end of the spectrum, they make up only 35 percent of vocational education teachers.

The average age of Alaska's resident teachers was 44 years in 2008. Middle and secondary school teachers were the youngest at 43. Vocational and special education teachers were the oldest with an average age of 49 and 46 respectively. (See Exhibit 1.)

This year, about 34 percent of current teachers are eligible to retire.³

The 2000 Census identified more than 15 percent of the state's population as American Indian or Alaska Native, yet Alaska Natives make up less than 5 percent of teachers in the state.⁴

Most teachers are employed by local government

About 32 percent of resident teachers taught at the elementary school level, 9 percent at the middle school level, 30 percent were secondary school teachers, 2 percent taught kindergarten, 10 percent were special education teachers at all levels, 2 percent taught vocational education at the middle and secondary levels, and 16 percent were coded as all other teachers. Some of the latter group taught multilevel classes.

Most teachers in Alaska's public schools are employees of local government. It's no surprise that local government employed more than 96 percent of all resident teachers and paid more than

¹ ODB wage files contain occupation and place of work information for wage and salary workers covered by unemployment insurance and employed in Alaska.

² Alaska residency is determined by matching the Alaska Department of Revenue Permanent Fund Dividend file with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development wage file. The wage file contains quarterly earnings and industry information on workers covered by unemployment insurance within Alaska. Those who aren't subject to unemployment insurance laws include self-employed workers, fishermen, the uniformed military, federal employees, and elected and appointed officials. Workers included in the wage file were considered Alaska residents if they applied for a PFD in either 2008 or 2009.

³ According to the Alaska's University for Alaska's Schools Report. This report from the University of Alaska to the legislature is on teacher preparation, recruitment and retention. See www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_documents.asp?session=26&docid=5420

⁴ See footnote No. 3.

1 Resident Teachers Alaska, 2008

Teacher Level	Resident Teachers	(\$) Total Resident Wages	(\$) Average Resident Wages	Males	Females	Average Age
Kindergarten	123	\$6,441,426	\$52,369	9	114	44
Elementary	2,550	\$125,057,497	\$49,042	486	2,064	44
Middle School	684	\$35,364,572	\$51,703	273	411	43
Secondary	2,356	\$121,951,275	\$51,762	904	1,452	43
Special Education	790	\$40,470,128	\$51,228	135	655	46
Vocational Education	162	\$9,607,767	\$59,307	106	56	49
Teacher, Others ¹	1,264	\$68,174,046	\$53,935	413	850	45
Total	7,929	\$407,066,711	\$51,339	2,326	5,602	44

Data is for workers that worked in all four quarters of 2008 and had wages of at least \$15,000 during the year.

¹ This group includes tutors, private tutors, consumer education specialist, lecturers, substitutes, and other teachers.

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

2 Districts with 100+ Teachers¹ Alaska, 2009-2010 school year

Rank	School District	Total Teachers FTE ¹	Total Students Kindergarten to Grade 12	Student Teacher Ratio ²
1	Anchorage School District	2,934	49,001	16.8
2	Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools	959	16,579	15.8
3	Fairbanks North Star Borough Schools	837	14,313	16.7
4	Kenai Peninsula	596	9,230	13.7
5	Juneau Borough Schools	346	4,953	14.3
6	Lower Kuskokwim School District	277	4,000	14.3
7	Kodiak Island Borough Schools	184	2,568	13.6
8	Bering Strait School District	176	1,649	9.3
9	North Slope Borough Schools	168	1,544	9.2
10	Ketchikan Gateway Borough Schools	154	2,110	13.7
11	Lower Yukon	150	1,932	12.9
12	Northwest Arctic Borough Schools	142	1,824	12.9
13	Sitka Borough Schools	104	1,339	12.4
	Alaska Statewide	8,151	129,187	14.7

This report is based on unaudited survey data collected by the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development in October 2009.

¹ Based on the number of full-time equivalent teachers.

² Student/Teacher Ratio is calculated by dividing student average daily membership by total teachers.

Source: Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, Assessment and Accountability

97 percent of all teacher wages in 2008. About 130 of the state's resident teachers worked in private schools or for state government. The latter group includes teachers who worked at Mount Edgecumbe High School, the state run public boarding school in Sitka.

The Anchorage School District employed more than one-third of all resident teachers in the state. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Schools and Fairbanks North Star School District were the second and third largest employers of teachers, but Anchorage schools employed more than the second- to fifth-largest districts combined. (See Exhibit 2.)

New hires

There were more than 1,300 new hire⁵ elementary, secondary and special education teachers in 2008. More than half of them were hired between the months of July to September – when most new teachers are hired for the school year.

The Department of Education and Early Development estimates that Alaska schools hired roughly 900 to 1,100 teachers in 2009.⁶ The Department of Education's numbers are not directly comparable to the Department of Labor's. Some new hires in Labor's count may have held more than one job during the year and could be counted more than once.

Demand for teachers exceeds the supply of resident workers

Ideally, Alaska would train and provide the bulk of its teachers. So far this isn't happening.

From 2006-2009, the University of Alaska graduated an average of about 200 new K-12 teachers a year. They graduated between 30 and 44 special education teachers annually for that period as well.⁷

Special education vacancies are the hardest to fill, followed by math and science in that order. Elementary positions are slightly easier to fill than secondary. This may be partly because students can earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education in four years, but a secondary teacher needs a subject-matter degree and then

⁵ New hires are workers who didn't work for the employer in any of the four quarters prior to the reference quarter. This number includes residents and nonresidents

⁶ See footnote No. 3.

⁷ See footnote No. 3.

must complete either a master's or post-baccalaureate program.

Alaska Teacher Placement, a primary clearinghouse and matching agency for the state's schools, reports that Alaska is only able to produce about one-third of teachers required each year. Most new teachers are recruited from out of state.⁸

Turnover is highest in rural areas and among new teachers

Teacher turnover is an issue that affects teachers on a personal and professional level and districts on a staffing and financial level. A relatively high percentage of teachers in Alaska, especially new teachers and those in rural areas, do not stay on the job.

In 2007, turnover for all school districts averaged 14 percent. Turnover was 10 percent for urban districts and 22 percent for rural districts. Rates were even higher for new teachers. Teacher turnover in the state's largest districts is comparable to that of U.S. mid-sized cities, but turnover in rural districts is higher than almost any place in the country except some inner-city districts in large cities.⁹

Teachers in Alaska leave their jobs for many reasons. Salaries are still above the U.S. average but are lower than they used to be – relative to other places. Travel and cost of living expenses are especially high in remote areas. Some new teachers, especially those from outside of Alaska, are not prepared for the harsh climate, remoteness, and cultural challenges they find in some rural areas of the state.

The financial burden associated with recruiting and hiring new teachers falls heavier on rural schools than large urban ones. The process takes a disproportional percentage of the smaller rural schools' budgets. Money that could have been

Licensing / Certification Elementary and High School

In Alaska, all teachers in public schools or state-approved nonpublic schools must be at least 18 years old. Classroom teachers are required to have a valid Initial, Professional, or Master certificate. Special education teachers must hold a special education endorsement.

To qualify for an Initial certificate, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Have a bachelor's degree or higher;
- Complete a teacher preparation program, or be currently enrolled in a teacher preparation program (program must be completed within two years of the issuance of the Initial certificate); and
- Obtain Passing scores on the Praxis I, CBEST, or WEST-B exam.

Also:

- The applicant must complete three semester hours in Alaska studies and three semester hours in multicultural education or cross cultural communications within two years of certification.
- A one-year teaching certificate may be issued for applicants who have not yet met the testing requirement, but hold a current, valid teaching certificate in another state.
- The Initial certificate is valid for up to three years and is nonrenewable. The requirements for the Professional or Master certificate must be met during the life of the Initial certificate.
- The fee for a teacher certificate is \$125. There is also a \$66 background check fee which is subject to change.

For more information about teacher certification, contact:

Alaska Department of Education and Early
Development
Teacher Education and Certification Section
801 W. 10th Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
907.465.2831 Voice
907.465.2441 Fax
E-mail: tcwebmail@alaska.gov
<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/TeacherCertification1>

⁸ According to the Alaska Teacher Placement Web site: www.alaskateacher.org/doku.php?id=getting_certified

⁹ Alexandra Hill and Diane Hirshberg, "Turnover Among Alaska Teachers: Is It Changing?" Research Summary No. 69, Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage

applied to educational services or supplies is spent looking for teacher replacements.

Teachers who graduate from training programs in Alaska have lower turnover rates than teachers from programs outside of the state. From 2000-2005, nearly three-quarters of the in-state graduates remained at their jobs while half of those from out of state moved on.¹⁰

¹⁰ See footnote No. 9.

Summary

Alaska has many opportunities for teachers who are willing to work in rural areas. Also, teachers of math, science and special education are in demand. With nearly 35 percent of the state's teachers eligible to retire this year, Alaska will need more teachers. Studies have shown that teachers trained in-state tend to stay at their jobs longer. Teacher training groups and districts recognize the need to work together to train more Alaskans to teach in the state's schools.

Mentoring Teachers in Alaska

**By Melissa Hill, K-12 Outreach Program Director and
Barbara Adams, ASMP Research Lead**

Teacher turnover in Alaska is highest among new teachers in rural areas. Typically, teachers hired to work in rural Alaska are prepared out of state and have limited experience working or living in areas similar to rural Alaska.

The experience can be overwhelming for a new teacher coming to Alaska. Transportation by boat or small plane, limited teacher housing, extreme climate changes, multi-aged classrooms, and a different value system and way of life are all factors that require these teachers to adapt to their new environment, both in and outside of the school. Couple the newness of relocating to rural Alaska with being a first-year teacher, and the probability for success is limited.

One program, the Alaska Statewide Mentor Project (ASMP), which started in 2004 as a response to the challenge of teacher retention, supplies a means to help ensure teachers in these remote areas succeed in the classroom. ASMP is a collaborative effort between the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and the University of Alaska. Currently the ASMP is the only program of its kind in the country where mentoring is state funded and offered at no cost to the school districts.

ASMP matches first- and second-year teachers called Early Career Teachers (ECTs) with experienced educators who act as mentors. These mentors offer knowledge and experience based on at least eight years of teaching in Alaska. Mentors use an array of formative assessment tools to help ECTs foster instructional strategies to promote learning in the classroom. Mentors observe new teachers in the classroom, model lessons and co-teach with them, provide guidance and support, promote self-reflection and goal setting, and serve as instructional coaches and impartial listeners. In most cases, mentors have monthly face-to-face meetings with ECTs at the rural teaching sites. They also maintain weekly contact with teachers using email, telephone, Skype, instant messaging, or video conferencing.

Between 2005 and 2009, ASMP consistently served between 370 and 380 teachers per year. New teachers are typically mentored for a two-year period. Between 2004 and 2009, the average retention rate was 81% for teachers that were mentored.

ASMP is driven by two goals: increase teacher retention and improve student achievement. The challenge of recruiting and retaining teachers for rural Alaska is complex and no single program or initiative will close the achievement gap for Alaska's minority students.

The Alaska Statewide Mentor Project is research based and focuses on instruction and learning. It's just one example of a program that is making a difference towards the goal of retaining quality teachers in rural Alaska. More information about the project is available at the following Web site: www.alaskamentorproject.org/.

Unemployment rate at 8.3 percent in May

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May fell slightly to 8.3 percent. April's preliminary rate was unchanged at 8.4 percent. The comparable national rate was 9.7 percent for May, down from 9.9 percent in April.

The unemployment rates for both Alaska and the U.S. remain higher than a year ago, but Alaska's picture is still healthier than the nation's. Alaska's rate continues to trend downward from its high of 8.6 percent in December of last year.

Summer season kicks in

The frenzied bustle of May signals the beginning of summer and an upswing in seasonal activity. Construction work is moving into high gear, and Alaska's fishing and visitor industries are mobilizing a work force for three to four months of hyperactivity.

Jobless rates (not seasonally adjusted) fell slightly in most areas of the state but were still higher than year-ago rates for most areas. The lowest May rates were recorded in the Skagway Municipality and Bristol Bay Borough – two communi-

ties that experience dramatic seasonal upswings in their work force. Tourism in Skagway and fishing in Bristol Bay are the reasons for the upswing in economic activity.

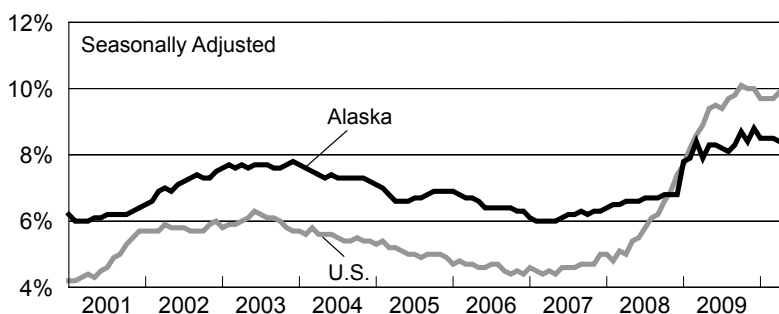
The other areas of the state with relatively low unemployment rates were the urban communities of Anchorage, Juneau, Fairbanks and Sitka. However, there were exceptions like the Denali Borough. As it prepared for an influx of summer visitors to Denali National Park, unemployment fell from 15 percent in April to 5.8 percent in May.

The two areas with the highest jobless rates were the Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas. Both areas suffer from chronically high, year-round joblessness. Neither of these areas experiences a major seasonal bounce in summer employment.

2010 Census provides employment

Every ten years the U.S. Census Bureau counts every individual in the country, including Alaska. It's a herculean effort that requires a large temporary work force. In 2009, hundreds of Alaskans were hired to check addresses and perform other groundwork. Additional hiring took place in 2010 when the actual census started. The job count for census workers peaked in May at 1,281. (See Exhibit 5.) This explains most of the federal government's employment increase of 800 workers from April to May; compared to May of last year, it's an additional 500 jobs. (See Exhibit 2.) By the end of the summer, most of their work will be done.

1 Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S. January 2001 to May 2010



Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

For more current state and regional employment and unemployment data, visit our Web site:

laborstats.alaska.gov

2 Statewide Employment Nonfarm wage and salary

	Revised			Year-Over-Year Change		
	5/10	4/10	5/09	5/09	90% Confidence Interval	
Alaska						
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary¹	326,300	314,900	322,900	3,400	-3,983	10,783
Goods-Producing ²	46,800	41,000	42,600	4,200	1,316	7,084
Service-Providing ³	279,500	273,900	280,300	-800	-	-
Mining and Logging	17,200	15,600	15,500	1,700	907	2,493
Mining	14,500	14,300	15,200	-700	-	-
Oil and Gas	12,200	12,200	13,100	-900	-	-
Construction	17,000	14,700	16,700	300	-2,283	2,883
Manufacturing	12,600	10,700	10,400	2,200	1,206	3,194
Seafood Processing	6,600	7,700	6,600	0	-	-
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	64,400	61,700	64,700	-300	-2,672	2,072
Wholesale Trade	6,400	6,200	6,400	0	-556	556
Retail Trade	37,100	35,600	36,000	1,100	-928	3,128
Food and Beverage Stores	6,500	6,400	6,400	100	-	-
General Merchandise Stores	10,400	10,200	9,800	600	-	-
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	20,900	19,900	22,300	-1,400	-2,438	-362
Air Transportation	5,600	5,700	6,100	-500	-	-
Truck Transportation	2,900	2,900	3,200	-300	-	-
Information	6,400	6,300	6,600	-200	-781	381
Telecommunications	4,200	4,100	4,300	-100	-	-
Financial Activities	14,000	14,000	14,600	-600	-2,543	1,343
Professional and Business Services	24,500	23,900	26,700	-2,200	-3,993	-407
Educational⁴ and Health Services	40,100	40,100	39,000	1,100	-168	2,368
Health Care	28,900	29,000	27,900	1,000	-	-
Leisure and Hospitality	33,000	29,300	33,100	-100	-2,137	1,937
Accommodations	8,100	6,600	8,300	-200	-	-
Food Services and Drinking Places	19,900	18,400	19,800	100	-	-
Other Services	11,100	11,100	11,600	-500	-3,676	2,676
Government	86,000	87,500	84,000	2,000	-	-
Federal Government ⁵	18,200	17,400	17,700	500	-	-
State Government	25,300	26,600	24,200	1,100	-	-
State Government Education ⁶	6,600	8,100	6,100	500	-	-
Local Government	42,500	43,500	42,100	400	-	-
Local Government Education ⁷	24,000	25,500	23,300	700	-	-
Tribal Government	3,700	3,600	3,700	0	-	-

4 Regional Employment Nonfarm wage and salary

	Revised			Changes from		Percent Change	
	5/10	4/10	5/09	4/10	5/09	4/10	5/09
Anch/Mat-Su	171,900	168,900	171,600	3,000	300	1.8%	0.2%
Anchorage	151,450	149,850	151,750	1,600	-300	1.1%	-0.2%
Gulf Coast	30,400	28,200	30,500	2,200	-100	7.8%	-0.3%
Interior	46,050	43,500	45,600	2,550	450	5.9%	1.0%
Fairbanks ⁸	39,600	37,200	39,300	2,400	300	6.5%	0.8%
Northern	19,750	19,850	20,200	-100	-450	-0.5%	-2.2%
Southeast	37,600	34,700	37,500	2,900	100	8.4%	0.3%
Southwest	17,300	18,300	17,400	-1,000	-100	-5.5%	-0.6%

A dash indicates that confidence intervals aren't available at this level.

¹ Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers; for estimates of fish harvesting employment, and other fisheries data, go to labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm

² Goods-producing sectors include natural resources and mining, construction and manufacturing.

³ Service-providing sectors include all others not listed as goods-producing sectors.

⁴ Private education only

⁵ Excludes uniformed military

⁶ Includes the University of Alaska

⁷ Includes public school systems

⁸ Fairbanks North Star Borough

Sources for Exhibits 2 and 3: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Sources for Exhibit 4: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; also the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, for Anchorage/Mat-Su and Fairbanks

3 Unemployment Rates Borough and census area

	Prelim.	Revised	
	5/10	4/10	5/09
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	9.7	9.9	9.4
Alaska Statewide	8.3	8.4	7.8
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	9.3	9.5	9.1
Alaska Statewide	7.9	8.4	7.6
Anchorage/Mat-Su Region	7.3	7.6	6.9
Anchorage Municipality	7.0	7.1	6.5
Mat-Su Borough	8.7	9.6	8.6
Gulf Coast Region	8.7	10.1	8.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	9.4	11.0	9.1
Kodiak Island Borough	6.9	7.1	7.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	7.4	9.5	7.5
Interior Region	7.5	8.3	7.5
Denali Borough	5.8	15.0	5.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.9	7.4	7.0
Southeast Fairbanks CA	9.6	11.0	9.2
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	14.9	16.1	15.0
Northern Region	10.5	10.3	9.5
Nome Census Area	13.9	14.1	12.8
North Slope Borough	5.4	5.1	4.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	14.7	14.3	13.5
Southeast Region	7.0	8.1	6.9
Haines Borough	8.0	11.1	8.0
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area ¹	12.5	19.7	10.4
Juneau Borough	5.7	6.0	5.6
Ketchikan Gateway Borough ¹	7.0	8.4	6.4
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA ¹	14.3	16.0	14.6
Sitka Borough	6.1	6.2	6.1
Skagway Municipality ¹	2.5	18.2	7.1
Wrangell-Petersburg CA ¹	9.4	10.7	9.5
Yakutat Borough	8.7	11.1	10.0
Southwest Region	14.0	13.3	14.3
Aleutians East Borough	12.9	7.1	12.6
Aleutians West Census Area	11.7	6.4	12.3
Bethel Census Area	15.6	15.9	15.0
Bristol Bay Borough	4.1	9.3	3.9
Dillingham Census Area	11.3	10.8	12.0
Lake and Peninsula Borough	7.5	10.0	8.3
Wade Hampton Census Area	20.7	20.7	22.7

¹ Because of the creation of new boroughs, this borough or census area has been changed or no longer exists. Data for the Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (previously Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area) became available in 2010. Data for the Wrangell Borough, and Petersburg and Prince of Wales-Hyder census areas will be available in 2011. Until then, data will continue to be published for the old areas.

Changes in Producing the Estimates

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has implemented a change to the method used to produce statewide wage and salary employment estimates, which has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska.

Therefore, one should be cautious in interpreting any over-the-year or month-to-month change for these monthly estimates. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages series may be a better information source (labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm).

Employer Resources

Developing Workers with Registered Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are emerging as an important component of Alaska's modern work force development and educational system. Alaska currently has about 80 apprenticeable occupations, 2,400 apprentices and 300 sponsors. Last year, more than 750 apprentices became journey level workers. Opportunities for apprenticeship programs exist in health care, tourism, oil and gas, mining, forestry, transportation and construction. Any business that requires highly skilled employees can benefit from apprenticeship.

For employers, an apprenticeship can establish standards of proficiency and help foster a local and loyal workforce. Employers should also know that apprenticeship can be the preferred option for high school graduates who do not want to go directly to university. By participating in apprenticeships, employers become part of a connected work force development system and can affect change for youth who choose alternative career paths. This connected system provides pathways from high school vocational/technical courses to a registered apprenticeship or enrollment at the University of Alaska.

Today's apprenticeships combine on-the-job learning and related instruction with a progressive pay scale so that participants earn while they learn. Upon completion of their apprenticeship, students are recognized as journey-level workers and have job skills that are in demand by employers. These skills give them the opportunity to compete for high paying jobs. Many apprenticeship programs are now using comprehensive online-based learning and correspondence courses, allowing access for students in rural areas that don't have local training providers.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development partnered with the Anchorage School District's King Career Center to launch a new school-to-apprenticeship program for commercial carpentry. The school's students can accumulate on-the-job hours for their construction classes. These hours count towards related technical instruction for an 8,000-hour carpentry apprenticeship. School-to-Apprenticeship programs may also be developed in other school districts through the Alaska Tech Prep Consortium.

The Department of Labor has also partnered with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to create a statewide multilingual outreach program that introduces apprenticeship to youth, parents and employers. The outreach includes a new Web site: EarnAndLearnAK.Org which is available in 37 languages.

Another new program, Project Jump Start is preparing journey workers to become supervisors and instructors. Under a partnership between AVTEC and the University of Alaska, students take courses applicable toward an Associate of Applied Science degree in Apprenticeship Technologies. Project Jump Start is preparing skilled journey workers to become the future teachers and instructors of Alaska's work force.

Another important component of this integrated system is helping students to identify the training that will lead to a job. As a state, Alaska has identified specific career pathways and training that can lead to occupations. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development has compiled career planning resources that are available to local school districts and students. At the post-secondary level, the University of Alaska has identified career paths for which training is available. The goal is to provide students with a road map for transition from school to career.

For more information, contact Mary Rodman-Lopez at (907) 465-5953. Additional information is available at these Web sites:

www.jobs.alaska.gov/apprentice
www.earnandlearnak.org