

# ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

JUNE 2010

## Tracking Alaska's Students

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**The Kodiak Island Borough**

An economy steeped in fishing

**Employment Scene**

Unemployment rate at 8.4 percent in April



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor  
Commissioner Click Bishop

# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



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& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska  
Commissioner Click Bishop

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Cover: Juneau-Douglas High School students head off to class a little after 9 a.m. on May 26. School was out for the summer on June 3. Photo by Sam Dapcevich

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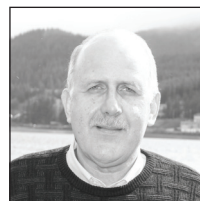
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## What Is Success for Alaska's High School Students?

By Commissioner Click Bishop

This month's *Trends* features a new study that is focusing on Alaska students who were on target to graduate in 2004-2005, finding out where they are now and how they got there. The study is the outcome of a partnership between the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

What does the path to a successful future look like? We do know that today a high school education is a "bare minimum" requirement – while only 20 percent of jobs require a bachelor's degree or above, almost all jobs now require some sort of education or training after a high school diploma or GED.

For these young workers, we also know that those with postsecondary education earn more than those with a high school diploma or GED alone. Women still earn about 80 percent as much as males in comparable positions.

Of the students in 2004-2005 who were on a path to graduate, nearly half who dropped out eventually received an Alaska GED. By 2009, 73 percent of the 2004-2005 students earned a regular Alaska high school diploma or Alaska GED – nearly 30,000 people.

The Department of Labor's Employment Security Division annually receives state and federal funds for the Adult Basic Education Program to prepare students for the GED. The department issues about 1,600 GED certificates a year.

Another partnership between Labor and Education, the Alaska Career Ready program allows students and adult job seekers to evaluate their readiness for work, college and occupational training, and to improve the basic skills valued by employers and educators.

As part of Alaska Career Ready, the WorkKeys job skills assessment provides a comprehensive measurement of the common skills required for success in the workplace. Assessments help match an individual's skills with skills that employers believe are critical to a job.

Alaska Job Centers provide Web-based, individualized and self-paced courses to help job seekers build the skills necessary to take the WorkKeys assessments and earn a National Career Readiness Certificate. The NCRC credential demonstrates to prospective employers that an individual has the basic skills required for a job. Even for those with a high school diploma, GED or postsecondary degree, the NCRC further verifies that the holder can handle tasks that are vital in today's workplace, such as finding information, reading instructions and working with figures.

WorkKeys and the NCRC will help increase the employability of Alaska's work force and reduce the need for employers to look outside the state for workers.

Through ALEXsys, Alaska's online job bank, the Department of Labor is encouraging job seekers to include Alaska Career Ready information with their applications to increase the likelihood of being interviewed and – the ultimate goal – getting hired.

Through the Department of Labor, more than 5,800 Alaskans have accessed the assessment materials, about 1,700 have taken the WorkKeys assessment and more than 500 Alaska Career Ready certificates have been awarded.

In the 2010-2011 school year, all Alaska 11th-graders will be given the assessment and the chance to receive a certificate – and a better understanding of what they'll encounter as they go to postsecondary education, training or directly into the work force.

## Measuring Alaska's secondary student performance

**N**ot every young Alaskan takes the traditional path from secondary school to adult work life. The journey can be a bumpy one, with detours and deadends. And just as initial success doesn't necessarily lead to long-term success, failure in high school doesn't necessarily mean long-term failure. But what path is most likely to lead to success for Alaska's youth?

Many Alaska youth follow high school immediately with college<sup>1</sup> or training programs. Others drop out and then later earn a GED.<sup>2</sup> Others

find success in employment without a degree. And some Alaska youth fail.

In order to better assess how Alaska's students are faring and to identify ways toward improvement, the Alaska departments of Labor and Workforce Development, and Education and Early Development have started new cooperative data collection and analysis systems.<sup>3</sup> Through that effort, we're able to track Alaska

<sup>1</sup> "College" and "postsecondary education" are used interchangeably throughout this article; they refer to two- or four-year colleges.  
<sup>2</sup> GED stands for General Education Development.

<sup>3</sup> The cooperative data collection and analysis systems are part of a U.S. Department of Education drive to have states develop and maintain longitudinal data systems to efficiently and accurately manage, analyze and use education data, including individual student records. The data systems should help states, school districts, schools and teachers make data-driven decisions to improve student learning, and contribute to research on ways to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps.

## 1 Students Leaving School the First Year Versus Over Four Years Students in grades nine to 12 in the 2004-2005 school year, Alaska

What Happened to Students Over the Whole 2004-2008 Period<sup>1</sup>

	Total	Earned GED <sup>2</sup>	Graduated or Earned GED <sup>2</sup>	Postsecondary Education in Alaska or in the U.S. <sup>2</sup>	Postsecondary Education in Alaska Only <sup>2</sup>	Military <sup>2</sup>	Employed in Alaska <sup>3</sup>	Alaska Total Wages <sup>3</sup>	Average Annual Wages <sup>3</sup>
Total	40,978	3,000	29,851	16,827	10,484	1,515	26,760	\$361,096,801	\$13,494
Graduated	6,609	42	6,438	3,154	1,868	338	4,232	\$80,493,120	\$19,020
Dropped Out	2,995	875	1,056	353	247	97	1,777	\$22,223,361	\$12,506
Ended Year as a 7th- to 12th-Grader and Was Expected to Return	28,388	1,665	21,112	12,844	8,053	961	19,071	\$234,154,594	\$12,278
Transferred to Another School	1,506	262	457	237	136	69	724	\$8,300,555	\$11,465
Other <sup>4</sup>	1,480	156	568	239	180	50	956	\$15,925,171	\$16,658
Number Employed in Alaska in 2009	26,760	2,044	20,490	11,885	8,732	n/a	26,760	n/a	n/a
Average Annual Wages in 2009	\$13,494	\$13,599	\$14,366	\$12,264	\$13,866	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: The abbreviation "n/a" in these cases means not available.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the last exit type reported

<sup>2</sup> Student data as of November 2009

<sup>3</sup> Student data as of calendar year 2009

<sup>4</sup> "Other" includes students who completed school and received certificates for completion or attendance in lieu of high school diplomas; students who reached the maximum age (school age is 19 or younger); students who died; students still in high school, and students otherwise unaccounted for.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division

students through secondary and postsecondary education as well as through the world of work.

Since Alaska consistently ranks near the bottom in educational performance measures when compared to other states, there's a sense of urgency to identify solutions. An improved data system is a key part of this effort.

Which path is the one that will most likely lead to success? Just how successful are high school graduates versus dropouts? And how do long-term dropouts compare to those who earn their GED in Alaska, which should give them the equivalent of a high school diploma? To get a more complete profile of Alaska's youth, we have matched historical Alaska student records from the Department of Education<sup>4</sup> with Alaska GED, employment and wage data, along with Alaska and national postsecondary education information.

### The 2004-2005 school year: a case study

Four years of Alaska student data were made available for data matching – the school years 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 – as part of the ongoing data sharing agreement between the departments of Labor and Education. The 2004-2005 school year was the earliest year for which high school student data were available.

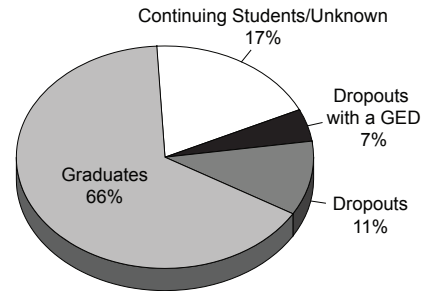
After selecting only student records in the 2004-2005 school year, 40,978 Alaska students in grades nine through 12 were matched with the subsequent three years of school year information and other administrative data through calendar year 2009 to determine each student's near-term and longer-term education and employment outcomes.

School districts assigned an exit code from the Department of Education's list of 14 different codes to each student based on the last reported exit for the school year. About 70 percent of the students were assigned a code indicating

<sup>4</sup> Throughout this article, references to simply the "Department of Education" are to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

## What They Were Doing in 2007-2008 Grades nine to 12 in 2004-2005, Alaska **2**

Last Reported High School Status in 2007-2008



Sources: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

they ended the year enrolled and were expected to return the following year. (See Exhibit 1.) The two other large categories of students were those who graduated and those who dropped out of school.

While the status of the students at the end of the 2004-2005 school year is important, the final reported exit status during the four-year period – from 2004 through 2008 – for the 2004-2005 students is also important. It shows what happened to the ninth-graders from 2004-2005, and it provides additional data on the students' college and employment choices. Longer-term data give a clearer picture of the long-term success or failure of Alaska's youth, and that drives an interest in collecting this information at the national level.

Though many students reported as continuing students in the 2004-2005 high school student population dropped out of school, many of those dropouts ultimately earned a GED or returned to school and got their high school diploma. Almost 66 percent (26,938) of the students earned a regular high school diploma or graduated another way<sup>5</sup> in Alaska.

While there were 3,046 dropouts and students who reached the usual maximum allowable age<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Graduating another way includes earning a diploma under a waiver, graduating the prior summer or passing the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination. A student must pass the three sections of the HSGQE to receive a diploma in the state of Alaska.

<sup>6</sup> Nineteen is the usual maximum age to attend high school in the state. Alaska statute allows students older than that at the discretion of the school district's governing body.

# 3 Status of the Students as of the 2007-2008 School Year and 2009

## Students who were in grades nine to 12 in the 2004-2005 school year, Alaska

	Student Status <sup>1</sup>							Students Who Earned a GED <sup>2</sup>	
	Total Students	Number of Dropouts	Percentage of Dropouts	Number of Graduates	Percentage of Graduates	Number of Other <sup>3</sup> Students	Percentage of Other <sup>3</sup> Students	Number of Students	Percentage of Students
<b>Total</b>	40,978	6,281	15.3%	26,938	65.7%	7,759	18.9%	3,000	7.3%
Graduates	26,938	0	0.0%	26,938	100.0%	0	0.0%	87	0.3%
Dropouts with a GED	1,919	62	3.2%	0	0.0%	1,857	96.8%	1,919	100.0%
<b>Last grade level as of the 2007-2008 school year:</b>									
Ninth grade	1,206	561	46.5%	0	0.0%	645	53.5%	216	17.9%
10th grade	2,206	1,043	47.3%	2	0.1%	1,161	52.6%	528	23.9%
11th grade	4,179	1,872	44.8%	155	3.7%	2,152	51.5%	992	23.7%
12th grade	33,378	2,804	8.4%	26,781	80.2%	3,793	11.4%	1,263	3.8%
Grade n/a <sup>4</sup>	9	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	8	88.9%	1	11.1%
<b>Postsecondary education:</b>									
No	24,151	5,550	23.0%	12,038	49.8%	6,563	27.2%	2,348	9.7%
Yes	16,827	731	4.3%	14,900	88.5%	1,196	7.1%	652	3.9%
<b>Region<sup>5</sup> of last school in the 2004-2008 period:</b>									
Mat-Su	4,753	601	12.6%	3,124	65.7%	1,028	21.6%	374	7.9%
Fairbanks	5,576	942	16.9%	3,575	64.1%	1,059	19.0%	493	8.8%
Northern Region	1,836	373	20.3%	1,023	55.7%	440	24.0%	135	7.4%
Balance of Interior Region	1,478	294	19.9%	802	54.3%	382	25.8%	136	9.2%
Southwest Region	2,492	495	19.9%	1,377	55.3%	620	24.9%	157	6.3%
Anchorage	15,149	2,316	15.3%	10,338	68.2%	2,495	16.5%	944	6.2%
Gulf Coast Region	4,742	497	10.5%	3,380	71.3%	865	18.2%	343	7.2%
Southeast Region	4,492	619	13.8%	3,171	70.6%	702	15.6%	328	7.3%
Region n/a <sup>6</sup>	460	144	31.3%	148	32.2%	168	36.5%	90	19.6%
<b>Sex:</b>									
Female	19,841	2,669	13.5%	13,722	69.2%	3,450	17.4%	1,113	5.6%
Male	21,137	3,612	17.1%	13,216	62.5%	4,309	20.4%	1,887	8.9%
<b>Race:</b>									
White	24,481	2,941	12.0%	17,512	71.5%	4,028	16.5%	1,675	6.8%
African-American	1,704	331	19.4%	953	55.9%	420	24.6%	102	6.0%
Hispanic	1,389	262	18.9%	845	60.8%	282	20.3%	97	7.0%
Asian	2,637	354	13.4%	1,820	69.0%	463	17.6%	94	3.6%
American Indian	616	124	20.1%	348	56.5%	144	23.4%	65	10.6%
Alaska Native	9,565	2,153	22.5%	5,136	53.7%	2,276	23.8%	924	9.7%
Other	586	116	19.8%	324	55.3%	146	24.9%	43	7.3%

Note: Some students fall into multiple categories, so percentages in rows and columns don't equal 100 percent.

<sup>1</sup> Student data as of the 2007-2008 School Year.

<sup>2</sup> Student data as of November 2009.

<sup>3</sup> "Other" includes students who completed school and received certificates for completion or attendance in lieu of high school diplomas; students who reached the maximum age (school age is 19 or younger); students who died; students still in high school, and students otherwise unaccounted for.

<sup>4</sup> Students who were last reported as dropouts.

in grades nine through 12 reported in 2004-2005, twice that number, a total of 6,281 of the 40,978 students in 2004-2005, ultimately dropped out of school or reached the maximum school age by school year 2007-2008. That means more than 15 percent of all students in grades nine through 12 in the 2004-2005 school year dropped out of high school by 2008. But that isn't the end of the story for dropouts.

The numbers of people who get their Alaska GED aren't incorporated into official graduation rates,

but those numbers are a crucial piece of information in determining overall student outcomes. (See Exhibit 2.) The good news is that nearly half the students who ultimately dropped out received a GED. Overall, 29,851 (72.8 percent) of the 2004-2005 students earned a regular Alaska high school diploma or GED by 2009. Those figures, however, don't include high school education outcomes for students who left the state.

Dropout and graduation rates varied considerably by gender, race and geographic area.

Students Who Graduated or Earned a GED <sup>1</sup>				Postsecondary Education <sup>2</sup>				Employment and Wages As of Calendar Year 2009			
Number of Dropouts Who Earned a GED <sup>4</sup>	Percentage of Dropouts Who Earned a GED <sup>4</sup>	Number Who Graduated or Who Earned a GED	Percentage Who Graduated or Who Earned a GED	Number Who Were in Any State	Percentage Who Were in Any State	Number in Alaska	Percentage in Alaska	Number Employed in Alaska	Percentage Who Were Employed	Total Annual Wages	Average Annual Wages
1,919	30.6%	29,851	72.8%	16,827	41.1%	10,484	25.6%	26,760	65.3%	\$361,096,801	\$13,494
0	0.0%	26,938	100.0%	14,900	55.3%	9,204	34.2%	18,642	69.2%	\$269,446,162	\$14,454
1,919	0.0%	1,919	100.0%	426	22.2%	332	17.3%	1,317	68.6%	\$18,209,201	\$13,826
130	23.2%	216	17.9%	95	7.9%	51	4.2%	510	42.3%	\$4,723,046	\$9,261
323	31.0%	530	24.0%	279	12.6%	154	7.0%	1,055	47.8%	\$10,826,027	\$10,262
640	34.2%	1,145	27.4%	627	15.0%	395	9.5%	2,413	57.7%	\$27,666,902	\$11,466
825	29.4%	27,959	83.8%	15,826	47.4%	9,884	29.6%	22,776	68.2%	\$317,865,641	\$13,956
1	0.0%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	66.7%	\$15,185	\$2,531
1,493	26.9%	14,322	59.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	14,875	61.6%	\$215,338,026	\$14,477
426	58.3%	15,529	85.1%	1	0.0%	10,484	62.3%	11,885	70.6%	\$145,758,776	\$12,264
193	32.1%	3,468	73.0%	1,780	37.5%	1,173	24.7%	3,019	63.5%	\$45,012,936	\$14,910
347	36.8%	4,054	72.7%	2,455	44.0%	1,724	30.9%	3,624	65.0%	\$54,037,102	\$14,911
78	20.9%	1,156	63.0%	405	22.1%	330	18.0%	1,330	72.4%	\$17,128,817	\$12,879
99	33.7%	935	63.3%	476	32.2%	363	24.6%	978	66.2%	\$14,143,785	\$14,462
103	20.8%	1,526	61.2%	586	23.5%	466	18.7%	1,773	71.1%	\$16,961,002	\$9,566
614	26.5%	11,272	74.4%	6,830	45.1%	4,012	26.5%	9,751	64.4%	\$134,850,086	\$13,829
209	42.1%	3,713	78.3%	2,168	45.7%	1,333	28.1%	3,074	64.8%	\$41,499,425	\$13,500
229	37.0%	3,494	77.8%	2,044	45.5%	1,013	22.6%	2,922	65.0%	\$34,146,955	\$11,686
47	32.6%	233	50.7%	83	18.0%	70	15.2%	289	62.8%	\$3,316,695	\$11,476
739	27.7%	14,801	74.6%	9,181	46.3%	5,734	28.9%	13,176	66.4%	\$156,061,884	\$11,844
1,180	32.7%	15,050	71.2%	7,646	36.2%	4,750	22.5%	13,584	64.3%	\$205,034,918	\$15,094
1,059	36.0%	19,133	78.2%	11,818	48.3%	6,960	28.4%	15,733	64.3%	\$225,428,980	\$14,328
62	18.7%	1,050	61.6%	598	35.1%	322	18.9%	955	56.0%	\$12,326,349	\$12,907
71	27.1%	942	67.8%	541	38.9%	374	26.9%	907	65.3%	\$13,520,260	\$14,907
71	20.1%	1,914	72.6%	1,159	44.0%	726	27.5%	1,697	64.4%	\$23,827,924	\$14,041
43	34.7%	413	67.0%	188	30.5%	114	18.5%	387	62.8%	\$5,267,093	\$13,610
591	27.5%	6,033	63.1%	2,346	24.5%	1,874	19.6%	6,716	70.2%	\$75,816,889	\$11,289
22	19.0%	366	62.5%	177	30.2%	114	19.5%	365	62.3%	\$4,909,306	\$13,450

<sup>5</sup> These are the same economic regions regularly discussed in *Trends*, with two differences: the Anchorage/Mat-Su Region is broken into the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough and the Fairbanks North Star Borough is separated out from the Interior region.

<sup>6</sup> The abbreviation "n/a" in this reference means that the data aren't available because the school location wasn't coded correctly for the 460 students.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division

Females graduated from high school at a rate nearly seven percentage points higher than males, 69.2 percent versus 62.5 percent, but the gap narrowed to three percentage points when GEDs were included as males were more likely to obtain a GED than females. (See Exhibit 3.)

Alaska Natives had the lowest graduation rate, 53.7 percent, while whites had the highest at 71.5 percent. Nearly 10 percent of the Native students earned their GED by 2009, though,

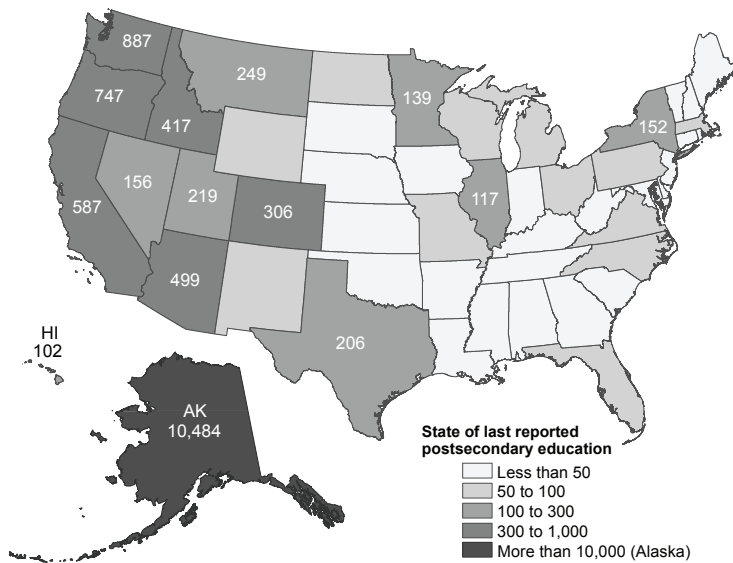
bringing their total graduation or GED rate to 63.1 percent.

Graduation rates were highest in the Gulf Coast region of Alaska and lowest in the Interior region. Ten percent of the students from the Interior region earned their GEDs.

## Postsecondary education

More than 40 percent of high school students in the 2004-2005 school year had some college by

# 4 Where Alaskans Go to College U.S., November 2009



Sources: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; National Student Clearinghouse

July 2009, and despite their young age, just over 1 percent, or 547 students, completed a degree or certificate program by then. Just over 62 percent of the students with some college were last reported as having attended a college in Alaska rather than outside the state.

Which students had the highest and lowest rates of postsecondary education? Women led men (46.3 percent versus 36.2 percent) and whites led Alaska Natives (48.3 percent versus 24.5 percent).

Natives had the lowest college participation rate of any of the racial groups – 24.5 percent of the students had some college through November 2009. Native women had a 10-percentage point advantage over Native men (29.4 percent versus 19.8 percent), mirroring the overall gender difference across all groups.

Native women still had a lower college participation rate than the 46.3 percent rate for all women.

The college participation rates were highest for students who last attended high schools in the Denali Borough, and Wrangell-Petersburg and Valdez-Cordova census areas.

Roughly 62 percent of the college participation was last reported in an in-state school. Out-of-state college students most recently attended colleges in the Western states, including Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona. (See Exhibit 4.) A longer-term follow-up of those students will allow us to determine how many return to Alaska to look for work.

## Employment and earnings

Nearly two-thirds of the 2004-2005 high school students were employed in Alaska in 2009 and they earned \$361 million in wages.<sup>7</sup> High school graduates had slightly higher average earnings than GED recipients (\$14,454 versus \$13,826). High school graduates earned about a third more than those who dropped out of school and didn't get a GED. (See Exhibit 5.)

High school graduates had a 10-percentage point advantage in employment rates in 2009 over those students who dropped out of school and didn't get more education. Dropouts, excluding those who ultimately received a GED, were employed at a 59.4 percent rate in 2009.

Students with some college were employed in Alaska at a higher rate than other students in 2009, but they earned less than the average for all former students. That may be due to less time on the job because of time spent in class and the increased likelihood of working and attending school out-of-state at least part of the year. Wage data from other states aren't included in the Alaska average earnings measure.

Women earned about 78 percent as much as males in 2009. And although Native employment rates were much higher than average at 70.2 percent, Natives had the lowest average wage and salary earnings of all demographic groups – \$11,289. Students from the Fairbanks and Mat-Su regions had the highest average earnings (\$14,911 and \$14,910, respectively).

<sup>7</sup> Earnings and occupation data are derived from quarterly reports submitted by every employer subject to state unemployment insurance laws. Those who are not subject to unemployment insurance laws include self-employed workers, fishermen, federal workers and uniformed military, and elected and appointed officials. See the Methodology section for more detail.



Native women had a slight employment rate advantage over Native men (71.0 percent versus 69.5 percent), but Native men earned about \$800 more a year than Native women (\$11,696 versus \$10,882).

Fish harvesting provides a source of income for many young workers, but those data aren't included in Alaska wage and salary employment figures. A little more than 3 percent of the former students had a fishing crew license in 2009.

But for some areas, fishing is much more important than for other areas. For instance, about 42 percent of the Petersburg students had a fishing crew license.

Military activity is also not included in Alaska wage and salary data, but it is available from administrative records. Based on a match with national data, nearly 4 percent of students were in the military in 2009.

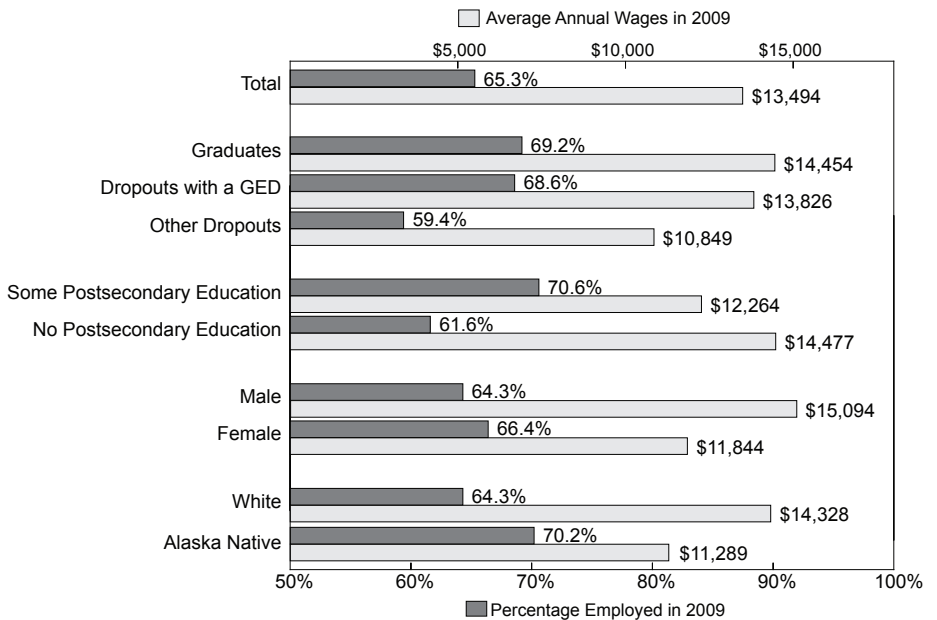
Men (5.9 percent) were more likely to join the military than women (1.3 percent) and students who dropped out and got a GED were more likely to be in the military than other former students. Natives were half as likely as other racial groups to join the military.

## Occupation

Looking at the occupation of each worker, which employers provide to the Department of Labor each quarter,<sup>8</sup> employed former high school students were most likely to work as retail sales workers, food and beverage workers, construction workers and administrative support workers in 2009, regardless of whether they were high school graduates or dropped out of school. Many of those jobs require limited education and work experience.

The young workers with the highest average earnings were employed in construction and oil-

## The Percentage Employed in 2009<sup>1</sup> Grades nine to 12 in 2004-2005, Alaska



<sup>1</sup> Based on selected categories

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

### Dropout and graduation rates: percentages of students versus the rates

The percentage of students who graduate from high school or drop out of high school used in this report aren't directly comparable to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's official graduation and dropout rates.

The Department of Education uses a standard formula to calculate the graduation and dropout rates. Dropout rates are calculated as a one year event and are a ratio of dropouts to all students in grades seven through 12.

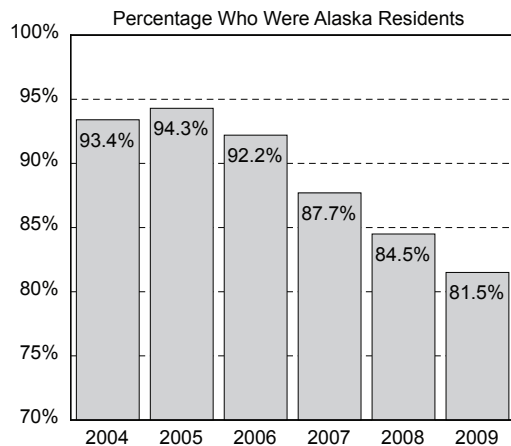
A student who ends a school year as a dropout is considered a dropout for the reference year regardless of whether he or she received a GED in a later year.

Because the dropout rates that the Department of Education calculates are based on one year's data and they include grades seven and eight – typically lower dropout years – those rates will be lower than the calculated rates in this report.

The Department of Education-calculated graduation rate takes into account total students from a reference year, continuing students and dropouts from that year, as well as dropouts from the three years prior to the reference year. For instance, the 2008 rate would be the total graduates for 2008 divided by (total graduates in 2008 + continuing students in 2008 + dropouts in 2008 + dropouts in 2007 + dropouts in 2006 + dropouts in 2005).

<sup>8</sup> See footnote No. 7.

# 6 Alaska Residency by Year<sup>1</sup> Grades nine to 12 in 2004-2005



<sup>1</sup> According to applications for the Alaska Permanent Fund dividend  
Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend Division

related occupations including heavy equipment operators, roustabouts, plumbers and electricians.

Over the longer term, it's important to track the career path and performance of the students. Most high paying jobs require postsecondary education or training that has a high school diploma or equivalent as a prerequisite. Although recent graduates and dropouts both have modest incomes and both qualify for lower skilled

jobs, over time, the graduates will have more opportunities and much higher incomes than dropouts.

## Where are they now?

More than 81 percent of the students applied for an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend in 2009, showing that they lived in Alaska that year. (See Exhibit 6.) Given Alaska's historically high migration rates, the large percentage of the students who left Alaska isn't surprising.

Based on the most recent residence address in a combined 2008 and 2009 PFD file, about 70 percent of the students were living in the same borough or census area as they did when they were in high school. (See Exhibit 7.)

Although correspondence school locations don't necessarily indicate the residence of the student and muddy the data a bit, in general, students who went to high school in Anchorage and rural Alaska were much more likely to continue to live in those areas in 2009 than the rest of the state.

More specifically, the students who went to high school in the North Slope and Northwest Arctic boroughs, and the Nome, Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas were most

### Methodology Notes

In addition to matching 2004-2005 student data with subsequent years of Alaska education data, the student file was matched with employment, wage and postsecondary education administrative databases including:

- Alaska GED recipient records from January 2002 through September 2009. Since many Alaska students receive GEDs, it's important to look at how students who get their GEDs compare with those who get high school diplomas.

The wage record information is from quarterly reports that every employer subject to state unemployment insurance laws submits to the Alaska

Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Wages, also called earnings, include each employee's wages, commissions, bonuses and other gratuities when paid in connection with the job. Those who aren't subject to unemployment insurance laws include self-employed workers, fishermen, uniformed military, and elected and appointed officials.

- National postsecondary education information for most schools in the country from the National Student Clearinghouse, a nonprofit agency that tracks student enrollment and degree verification. This data set includes continuing education student

records for July 2007 through September 2009 and identifies the state where students' postsecondary education took place, what their majors were and if they earned degrees.

- Federal military and civilian employment information for 2007 through 2009. Federal military and civilian employment data aren't included in Department of Labor wage records because the employment isn't covered by Alaska unemployment insurance.
- The 2009 Alaska Permanent Fund dividend applicant file to determine the students' Alaska residency and help show if they moved to another state.

# Where the Students Were Living in 2009

## Students who were in grades nine to 12 in the 2004-2005 school year, Alaska



Where the Students Went to School in the 2004-2005 School Year <sup>1</sup>	Number Who Lived in the Same Area as Their High School	Percentage Who Lived in the Same Area as Their High School	Number Who Lived Elsewhere in Alaska	Percentage Who Lived Elsewhere in Alaska	Number Who Lived Outside Alaska or Their Location was Unknown	Percentage Who Lived Outside Alaska or Their Location was Unknown	Total
Aleutians East Borough	45	63.4%	12	16.9%	14	19.7%	71
Aleutians West Census Area	83	55.3%	24	16.0%	43	28.7%	150
Anchorage Municipality	11,852	78.2%	731	4.8%	2,566	16.9%	15,149
Bethel Census Area	822	80.0%	153	14.9%	53	5.2%	1,028
Bristol Bay Borough	46	64.8%	14	19.7%	11	15.5%	71
Denali Borough	58	33.1%	91	52.0%	26	14.9%	175
Dillingham Census Area	299	82.6%	44	12.2%	19	5.2%	362
Fairbanks North Star Borough	3,656	65.6%	848	15.2%	1,072	19.2%	5,576
Haines Borough	80	74.1%	14	13.0%	14	13.0%	108
Juneau Borough	1,366	74.9%	133	7.3%	324	17.8%	1,823
Kenai Peninsula Borough	2,344	73.2%	348	10.9%	510	15.9%	3,202
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	591	70.4%	82	9.8%	167	19.9%	840
Kodiak Island Borough	544	61.6%	153	17.3%	186	21.1%	883
Lake and Peninsula Borough	104	72.7%	27	18.9%	12	8.4%	143
Mat-Su Borough	3,467	72.9%	595	12.5%	691	14.5%	4,753
Nome Census Area	595	81.8%	84	11.6%	48	6.6%	727
North Slope Borough	469	83.2%	62	11.0%	33	5.9%	564
Northwest Arctic Borough	432	79.3%	78	14.3%	35	6.4%	545
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	201	53.2%	106	28.0%	71	18.8%	378
Sitka Borough	331	43.9%	309	41.0%	114	15.1%	754
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	105	65.6%	39	24.4%	16	10.0%	160
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	257	41.2%	260	41.7%	107	17.1%	624
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	416	63.3%	144	21.9%	97	14.8%	657
Wade Hampton Census Area	552	82.8%	94	14.1%	21	3.1%	667
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	277	73.1%	40	10.6%	62	16.4%	379
Yakutat Borough	25	50.0%	17	34.0%	8	16.0%	50
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	292	43.0%	313	46.1%	74	10.9%	679
Location n/a <sup>2</sup>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	460	100.0%	460
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,309</b>	<b>71.5%</b>	<b>4,815</b>	<b>11.8%</b>	<b>6,854</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>40,978</b>

Note: "Area" in this exhibit refers to borough or census area.

<sup>1</sup> The boroughs and census areas are listed as they were in 2004-2005. Some of the boroughs and census areas have changed since then.

<sup>2</sup> The abbreviation "n/a" in this reference means the data aren't available because the school location wasn't coded correctly for the 460 students.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Education and Early Development; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division

likely to continue living in those areas in 2009. Economic and cultural factors likely influenced their decisions to stay.

### In summary

Although it's too soon to tell which students in high school in the 2004-2005 school year will achieve the greatest long-term success, the early results are in. Just because students may have dropped out early in high school, it doesn't

mean they won't eventually graduate or obtain a GED.

Although more education and training generally means higher pay and a higher likelihood of employment in the long term, former students who pursued careers in construction or oil-related jobs earned the highest pay in 2009.

More definitive answers will come to light as we continue to track the students over time.

## An economy steeped in fishing, but the Coast Guard and tourism play a role too

**W**hen Alaska was purchased from Russia in 1867, sea otter hunting was booming in Kodiak, Alaska's largest island. After the hunting ban in 1911, commercial fishing became the island's mainstay. By the late 19th century, Kodiak had become Alaska's unofficial commercial seafood processing capital and by 1968 it was the largest fishing port in the nation.

Forty years later, in 2008, Kodiak's commercial fishing gross earnings were \$140 million and it harvested 251 million pounds (see Exhibit 1), making it third and fifth in the nation, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

Over the years, government, tourism, retail and health care jobs have added diversity and stability to the economy of the Kodiak Island Borough. But despite that increased diversity, the commercial fishing industry continues to be a cornerstone of the borough's economy. In 2008, a third of all the jobs in the borough and half of

all earnings were related to commercial fishing and seafood processing.

### Who lives here and where?

The Alutiiq people had lived on the island for thousands of years and had developed a rich subsistence economy by the time Russian fur trappers settled Kodiak in 1792 and made it the Russian territorial capital.

The present-day Kodiak Island Borough has 13,860 residents,<sup>2</sup> making it seventh in population of the state's 29 boroughs and census areas. Almost half of the 13,860 live in the city of Kodiak – the borough government seat and the state's eighth largest city – and nearly 10 percent live in Kodiak Station, the Coast Guard base six miles southwest of the city of Kodiak. (See Exhibits 2 and 3.)

Nine communities are on either Kodiak Island or Afognak Island, four miles to the north. Only two of the nine, Chiniak and Womens Bay, are accessible by road. The other seven range in population from 38 to 200 and are accessible only by air or water – Karluk, Larsen Bay, Port Lions, Ale-neva, Ouzinkie, Old Harbor and Akhiok.

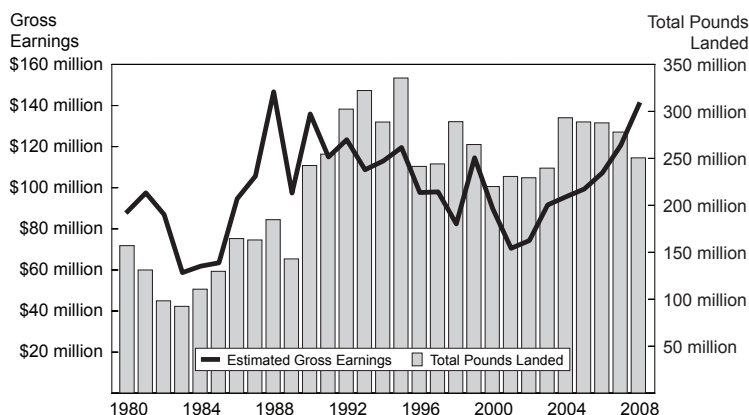
The median age of the borough's residents is slightly younger than statewide – 33.1 years versus 33.5. And young people represent more of the borough's population – 31.4 percent of the borough's population was under 18 in 2009, compared to 28.9 percent statewide.

The borough's population breaks down to 63.4 percent white (versus 72.0 percent statewide),

<sup>1</sup> The year 2008 is the most recent year for which complete data are available.

<sup>2</sup> According to 2009 estimates; population estimates in this article are from Research and Analysis' Demographics Unit in the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, unless noted otherwise.

## 1 Kodiak's Commercial Fishing Earnings and pounds landed, 1980 to 2008



Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

19.0 percent Asian and Pacific Islanders (versus 6 percent statewide), and 16.4 percent Native Alaskans (versus 17.9 percent statewide). Six percent of the borough's population is of Hispanic origin<sup>3</sup> (versus 4 percent statewide).<sup>4</sup>

### Commercial fishing year-round

The Kodiak Island Borough's commercial fishing industry is less seasonal – varying less dramatically during the year – than any other fishing borough in the state. The borough's number of fish harvesting jobs still varies. June, July and August are the peak months and December is the lowest month.

More than half the jobs during the peak months come from salmon harvesting, which occurs June through September. On an average annual basis, salmon fishing jobs made up 28 percent of all fish harvesting jobs in 2008, but only 14 percent of the estimated gross earnings – \$20.3 million.

The borough's other commercial fisheries include groundfish, halibut, herring and sablefish. (See Exhibit 4.) Groundfish made up the largest share, 36 percent, of the harvest earnings in 2008, and halibut represented 28 percent.

Groundfish harvesting occurs throughout the year, unlike fishing for other species, and the employment is the highest from January to May.

### Interregional fishing

Like many commercial fishermen in Alaska, Kodiak fishermen often fish in other regions of the state – the Bering Sea, Aleutians, Prince William Sound, Gulf of Alaska and Southeast – and they bring their earnings home with them.

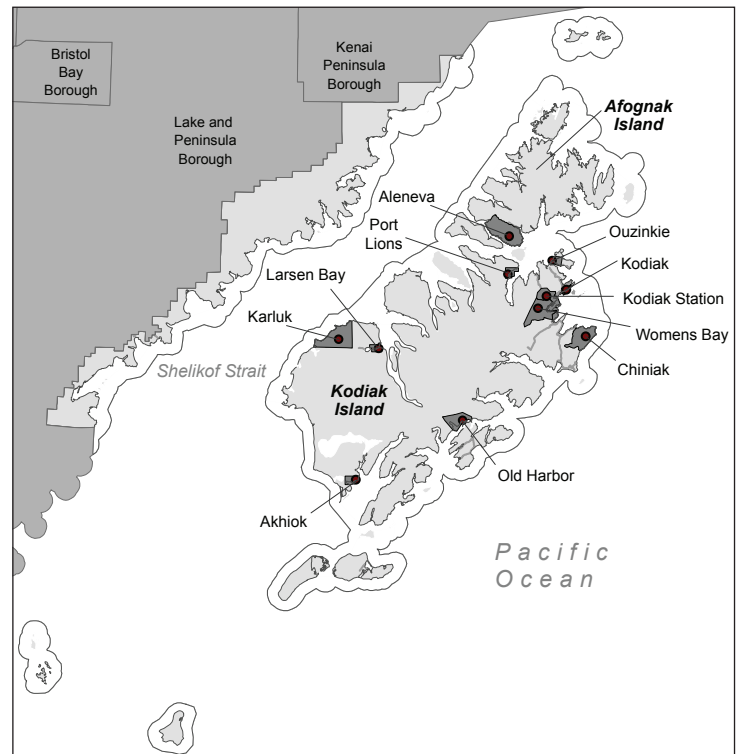
<sup>3</sup> People of Hispanic origin may belong to any race.  
<sup>4</sup> According to 2008 population estimates

## The Kodiak Island Borough's Population 2000 to 2009 **2**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Kodiak Island Borough	13,913	13,565	13,643	13,817	13,573	13,693	13,457	13,664	13,954	13,860
Akhiok (city)	80	57	49	51	57	42	41	36	48	51
Aleneva	68	88	96	59	44	46	46	61	57	67
Chiniak	50	53	56	49	50	52	41	44	44	48
Karluk	27	29	27	28	32	35	34	40	38	38
Kodiak (city)	6,334	6,073	6,100	6,109	6,210	6,139	5,670	5,796	6,541	6,626
Kodiak Station	1,840	1,758	1,939	2,189	1,764	1,977	1,887	1,974	1,235	1,321
Larsen Bay (city)	115	113	107	95	96	97	83	89	68	79
Old Harbor (city)	237	236	226	211	198	200	179	201	185	193
Ouzinkie (city)	225	204	189	172	187	189	172	166	168	170
Port Lions (city)	256	246	227	233	240	220	196	193	191	200
Womens Bay	690	683	684	681	689	704	759	747	792	740
Remainder of borough	3,991	4,025	3,943	3,940	4,006	3,992	4,349	4,317	4,587	4,327

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

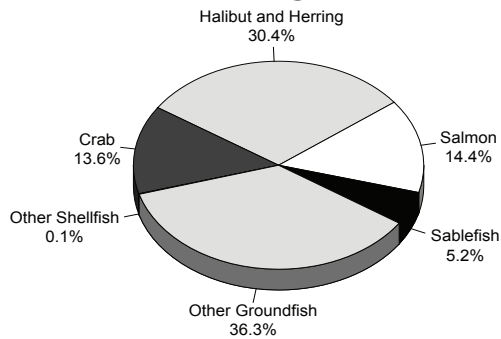
## The Kodiak Island Borough 2010 **3**



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

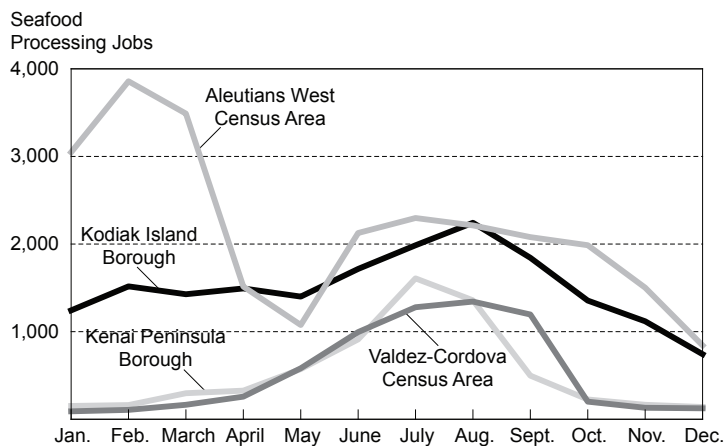
Crab – Dungeness, king and Tanner – is a good example. Crab made up 14 percent of all fisheries earnings in the borough in 2008, but it represented only 3 percent of the total pounds harvested in the borough. Most of the crab was caught in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands regions, which in 2005 became catch-share fisheries.

## 4 Gross Earnings by Species Kodiak Island Borough, 2008<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The year 2008 is the most recent year for which complete data are available.  
Source: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

## 5 Kodiak Has Less Seasonality Seafood processing jobs, Alaska 2008



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

Catch-share, also known as crab rationalization, allocates predetermined shares of an annually determined total catch to harvesters, processors and coastal communities. Since the program began in 2004, the number of permits fished in the Kodiak Island Borough has gone down from 209 to 61 in 2008, but the value of the crab harvested has gone up from \$13.5 million to \$19.1 million.

### First catch, then process

Looking at the borough's fish harvesting jobs combined with wage and salary jobs, seafood processing accounted for 23 percent of the jobs in 2008 and 17 percent of the earnings.

The borough has 16 seafood processing plants; only the Bristol Bay Borough has more, with 26.

The Kodiak Island Borough, compared to other areas, had the least dramatic seasonal seafood processing employment swings in 2008. (See Exhibit 5.)

Linked with that, the borough was also among Alaska's eight boroughs and census areas with the smallest percentage of nonresident processing workers in 2008<sup>5</sup> (see Exhibit 6), and the largest resident processing work force.

Nonresidents accounted for 43.9 percent of the borough's processing work force in 2008, compared to 74.4 percent statewide.

The fact that processing jobs are available year-round makes it possible to sustain such a large resident work force. Even in December – a low month for processing jobs across the state – the borough, in 2009, had the highest level of seafood processing employment of any borough or census area – 682 jobs.

### Fishing supports other industries

Like most fishing communities, commercial fishing brings more to the borough than just harvesting and processing jobs. Most of the borough's jobs have ties to fishing.

Kodiak's status as the state's commercial seafood capital is the reason many organizations are located there, including the U.S. Coast Guard, University of Alaska Fairbanks' Fisheries Industrial Technology Center and Kodiak Fisheries Research Center.

The Fisheries Industrial Technology Center, which focuses on increasing the value of the state's fishing industry through education and research, represents 71 jobs in the borough. It has two degree programs, sustainable harvesting and seafood processing, and multiple specialties.

The borough owns the 45,937-square-foot Kodiak Fisheries Research Center, a laboratory and office building for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and University of Alaska Fairbanks. The \$20 million facility, built in 1998, was partially paid for with Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill settlement money.

<sup>5</sup> The most recent year for which complete data are available

## The second-largest economic player

The Coast Guard's Kodiak Station brings in big dollars from out of state and in that way is a huge contributor in its own right to the borough's economy – its 2009 payroll was \$53 million.

The Coast Guard is the second-largest economic player in the borough, after commercial fishing (harvesting and processing).

Kodiak Station provides search and rescue and fisheries enforcement for the Gulf of Alaska, Bering and Chukchi seas, and out to the end of the Aleutian Islands.

The military has played a role in Kodiak's economy since 1938; the island was a main North Pacific staging area during World War II. The Coast Guard set up an Air Detachment on the island in 1947. Both the Navy's and Army's WWII installations were converted to a Coast Guard station in 1972.

Since then, the Coast Guard has maintained a sizeable presence. It's the largest Coast Guard base in the nation as far as physical size (36 square miles). Compared to Alaska's other boroughs and census areas, Kodiak's military represents the largest proportion of the total population.

Kodiak Station had 1,067 active military and 1,642 dependents as of March,<sup>6</sup> making it Alaska's fifth-largest military installation in terms of the number of people.

## Other government jobs

The borough mirrors Alaska statewide in the percentage of payroll jobs in the public sector – roughly one in four wage and salary jobs. (See Exhibit 7.)

Local government accounts for 14 percent of the jobs and 14 percent of the wages. The Kodiak Island Borough School District is the largest wage and salary employer.<sup>7</sup> The district had 2,568 students, kindergarten to grade 12, at 14 schools during the 2009-2010 school year.

State government makes up about 5 percent of

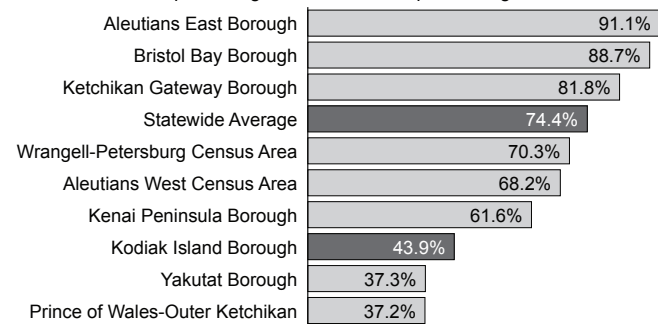
<sup>6</sup> According to the joint-military Alaskan Command, or ALCOM

<sup>7</sup> This count excludes the Coast Guard and fishermen.

## Fewer Nonresidents in Kodiak Seafood processing, Alaska 2008

# 6

Nonresidents as a percentage of total seafood processing workers in 2008<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The year 2008 is the most recent year for which data are available. Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

the borough's payroll jobs. A host of state agencies have offices in the borough.

The state maintains six state parks in the borough, three of which are on the road system: Ft. Abercrombie State Historical Park, and Buskin River and Pasagshak River state recreation sites.

The Coast Guard owns Kodiak's airport, but leases it to the state and the state maintains it. Kodiak College, also included in state government, has 50 full-time and 400 to 600 part-time students. The college is a two-year satellite campus of the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Federal jobs make up about 6 percent of the borough's payroll jobs. Those include the offices for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and National Weather Service.

## Health care continues to grow

The borough had about 550 health care jobs in 2009, which is up from 300 in 2002, but that number doesn't include the health care jobs held by uniformed personnel on Kodiak Station.

## Bears, other wildlife and sportfishing

The Kodiak brown bear – the largest of the brown bears – and other wildlife are big draws for visitors. The potential outdoor activities include photography, hiking, camping, hunting;

# 7 Jobs, Fishermen and the Military

## Kodiak Island Borough, 2000 to 2009

	Employment										Average Annual Wages in 2009
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Total Wage and Salary <sup>1</sup>	5,701	6,091	5,616	5,240	5,507	5,381	5,553	5,616	5,803	5,961	\$37,203
Natural Resources and Mining	–	–	94	90	122	118	78	29	86	97	\$48,151
Construction	–	–	184	183	192	166	148	166	178	173	\$60,342
Manufacturing	–	–	1,536	1,153	1,383	1,375	1,464	1,435	1,514	1,544	\$36,589
Seafood Manufacturing	–	–	1,532	1,147	1,376	1,368	1,458	1,428	1,507	1,539	\$36,632
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	–	–	852	824	825	815	823	792	801	785	\$30,746
Retail Trade	–	–	549	518	535	540	535	520	516	495	\$25,655
Transportation and Warehousing	–	–	224	221	208	195	211	200	218	220	\$28,324
Information	–	–	68	70	72	67	68	72	69	66	\$39,408
Financial Activities	–	–	189	186	187	192	227	218	227	243	\$42,130
Professional and Business Services	–	–	308	177	157	134	147	202	224	232	\$42,423
Educational <sup>2</sup> and Health Services	–	–	352	373	539	463	547	578	585	664	\$43,227
Health Care	–	–	291	318	439	372	457	466	469	547	\$47,842
Leisure and Hospitality	–	–	504	486	465	469	438	411	418	441	\$16,080
Other Services	–	–	272	380	230	243	250	253	236	238	\$19,833
Government	1,145	1,229	1,258	1,302	1,330	1,339	1,361	1,456	1,463	1,475	\$42,470
Federal Government <sup>3</sup>	208	208	216	233	243	241	239	342	344	347	\$50,279
State Government <sup>4</sup>	225	240	251	258	265	277	273	273	268	274	\$51,822
Local Government <sup>5</sup>	713	781	791	812	822	821	849	841	851	854	\$36,283
Fish Harvesting Jobs <sup>6</sup>	971	791	697	698	697	740	721	764	720	n/a	
Uniformed Military Population <sup>7</sup>	913	924	924	830	844	817	943	983	1,003	975	

### Notes:

A dash indicates employment isn't publishable at that industry detail due to a change of industry classification systems. Before 2002, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development reported industry employment using the Standard Industrial Classification system. Since 2002, the Department of Labor has reported industry employment using the North American Industrial Classification System.

The abbreviation "n/a" in these cases means not available.

<sup>1</sup> Excludes self-employed workers, fishermen, domestic workers, unpaid family workers and nonprofit volunteers

<sup>2</sup> Private education only

<sup>3</sup> Excludes uniformed military

<sup>4</sup> Includes the University of Alaska

<sup>5</sup> Includes public school systems

<sup>6</sup> "Fish harvesting jobs" represent the estimated number of jobs created for commercial permit holders and their crew who are directly involved in harvesting fish. They don't include the many jobs in processing, tendering and other related activities. Fish harvesting numbers are not a part of the wage and salary employment reported in the table above.

<sup>7</sup> The uniformed military count is a special population series collected annually from military sources by Research and Analysis' Demographics Unit within the Department of Labor. These numbers aren't comparable with the wage and salary employment reported above.

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

and sportfishing for all five species of salmon, cod, rainbow trout and steelhead.

Bear viewing will increase in June 2011 when the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge opens the O'Malley River area on the southwest side of Kodiak Island for bear viewing from platforms, much like McNeil River and Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park and Preserve.<sup>8</sup>

Tourists headed to Kodiak and Southwest Alaska stay longer, spend more money and are 33 percent more likely to be repeat visitors than the average Alaska tourist. In 2006, the average Kodiak visitor stayed 12 nights and spent \$2,062.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> According to the refuge

<sup>9</sup> According to the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program; the year 2006 is the most recent year for which AVSP has published data.

Two cruise ship companies dock in Kodiak as part of their longer Alaska tours, Holland America Line and Princess Cruises.

### The only fish-free zone

The only economic development in Kodiak with virtually no ties to fishing is the Kodiak Launch Complex, which was built in 1998 on Narrow Cape, 44 miles south of the city of Kodiak. The Alaska Aerospace Corporation, established by the State of Alaska, developed, owns and operates the spaceport. It was designed for polar space launches and it's used by the military and private companies, according to the corporation.



## Unemployment rate at 8.4 percent in April

**A**laska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April fell slightly to 8.4 percent. March's preliminary rate was revised down one-tenth of a percentage point to 8.5 percent. The comparable national rate for April was 9.9 percent, up from 9.7 percent in March. (See Exhibits 1 and 3.)

The monthly unemployment rates for both Alaska and the U.S. were higher than they were in April 2009, but Alaska's picture is still brighter than the nation's. In fact, last year was the first year since 1982 that Alaska's annual unemployment rate came in below the nation's. April also marked the 15th month in a row that Alaska's jobless rate was lower than the nation's.

### Positive U.S. outlook could help Alaska

The slight improvement in Alaska's jobless rate is a positive sign for the state's job market, and despite the increase in the national unemployment rate, the nation's employment has been growing since January.

That could eventually help take some pressure off Alaska's labor market if it translates into fewer

job seekers heading north looking for work. Whether that happens in 2010 or 2011 is still not clear. However, since Alaska's jobless picture remains considerably better than in most other states, Alaska will probably remain a relatively attractive place to work through 2010.

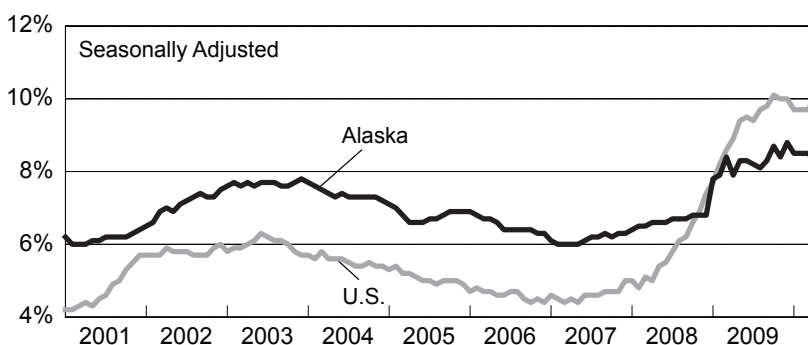
On a macro level, the national recovery that's now underway will translate into a plus for Alaska's economy and labor market. There are already signs. International air cargo freight has been on the upswing since late last year. Stronger U.S. and world demand should also have salutary effects on prices for many of Alaska's exports, including fish, oil and gas, zinc and other minerals.

In addition, as consumer confidence continues to improve, more Americans will travel. The cruise ship segment of Alaska's visitor industry will be taking a big hit this year, as already widely reported, but other segments of the industry should benefit from the nation's more confident consumers.

### Still not easy to find a job

Despite those signs of subtle improvement, there are indicators that continue to point to a very competitive job market for Alaskans. Claims for unemployment insurance – an important ingredient in the calculation of the state's unemployment rate – increased in April and were still running higher than year-ago levels.

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



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

### 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](http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm)).

## 2 Statewide Employment Nonfarm wage and salary

Alaska	Revised			Year-Over-Year Change		
	4/10	3/10	4/09	4/09	90% Confidence Interval	
<b>Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary</b> <sup>1</sup>	316,700	313,600	313,600	3,100	-4,283	10,483
Goods-Producing <sup>2</sup>	41,500	42,000	41,100	400	-	-
Service-Providing <sup>3</sup>	275,200	271,600	272,500	2,700	-	-
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	15,700	15,300	15,400	300	-493	1,093
Mining	14,600	14,900	15,200	-600	-	-
Oil and Gas	12,600	12,600	13,200	-600	-	-
<b>Construction</b>	14,500	13,300	14,400	100	-2,483	2,683
<b>Manufacturing</b>	11,300	13,400	11,300	0	-994	994
Seafood Processing	7,400	8,400	7,600	-200	-	-
<b>Trade, Transportation, Utilities</b>	61,800	61,200	61,400	400	-1,972	2,772
Wholesale Trade	6,200	6,100	6,200	0	-	-
Retail Trade	35,700	35,200	34,700	1,000	-1,028	3,028
Food and Beverage Stores	6,200	6,400	6,200	0	-	-
General Merchandise Stores	10,100	10,000	9,700	400	-	-
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	19,900	19,900	20,500	-600	-	-
Air Transportation	5,700	5,700	5,900	-200	-	-
Truck Transportation	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	-	-
<b>Information</b>	6,300	6,400	6,600	-300	-881	281
Telecommunications	4,100	4,200	4,300	-200	-	-
<b>Financial Activities</b>	13,800	13,800	14,400	-600	-2,543	1,343
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	23,800	23,700	25,500	-1,700	-3,493	93
<b>Educational<sup>4</sup> and Health Services</b>	40,300	40,400	38,800	1,500	232	2,768
Health Care	29,100	29,100	27,800	1,300	-	-
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	29,100	27,800	28,100	1,000	-1,037	3,037
Accommodations	6,500	6,100	6,300	200	-	-
Food Services and Drinking Places	18,200	17,700	17,700	500	-	-
<b>Other Services</b>	11,000	11,100	11,400	-400	-3,576	2,776
<b>Government</b>	89,100	87,200	86,300	2,800	-	-
Federal Government <sup>5</sup>	17,700	17,000	17,100	600	-	-
State Government	26,600	26,300	26,000	600	-	-
State Government Education <sup>6</sup>	8,100	8,000	8,100	0	-	-
Local Government	44,800	43,900	43,200	1,600	-	-
Local Government Education <sup>7</sup>	25,400	25,100	24,700	700	-	-
Tribal Government	3,600	3,700	3,400	200	-	-

## 4 Regional Employment Nonfarm wage and salary

	Revised			Changes from		Percent Change	
	4/10	3/10	4/09	3/10	4/09	3/10	4/09
Anch/Mat-Su	169,100	167,300	168,500	1,800	600	1.1%	0.4%
Anchorage	149,850	148,400	149,750	1,450	100	1.0%	0.1%
Gulf Coast	28,100	27,300	28,100	800	0	2.9%	0.0%
Interior	44,100	42,300	43,400	1,800	700	4.3%	1.6%
Fairbanks <sup>8</sup>	37,600	36,800	37,100	800	500	2.2%	1.3%
Northern	20,100	20,150	20,300	-50	-200	-0.2%	-1.0%
Southeast	34,100	32,700	34,500	1,400	-400	4.3%	-1.2%
Southwest	18,050	19,150	18,400	-1,100	-350	-5.7%	-1.9%

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

<sup>1</sup> 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](http://labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Goods-producing sectors include natural resources and mining, construction and manufacturing.

<sup>3</sup> Service-providing sectors include all others not listed as goods-producing sectors.

<sup>4</sup> Private education only

<sup>5</sup> Excludes uniformed military

<sup>6</sup> Includes the University of Alaska

<sup>7</sup> Includes public school systems

<sup>8</sup> 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

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Prelim.	Revised	
	4/10	3/10	4/09
<b>United States</b>	9.9	9.7	8.9
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	8.4	8.5	7.7
<b>NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>			
<b>United States</b>	9.5	10.2	8.6
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	8.5	9.5	7.8
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	7.7	8.5	6.9
Anchorage Municipality	7.2	7.8	6.3
Mat-Su Borough	9.7	11.3	9.0
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	10.2	11.7	9.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	11.1	12.7	10.2
Kodiak Island Borough	7.2	7.5	6.5
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9.6	11.7	9.7
<b>Interior Region</b>	8.3	9.6	7.7
Denali Borough	13.6	22.3	14.2
Fairbanks North Star Borough	7.4	8.5	6.8
Southeast Fairbanks CA	11.0	13.5	10.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	16.3	19.6	16.0
<b>Northern Region</b>	10.3	10.8	9.0
Nome Census Area	14.3	14.8	12.6
North Slope Borough	5.1	5.4	4.2
Northwest Arctic Borough	14.5	15.3	13.0
<b>Southeast Region</b>	8.2	9.9	7.9
Haines Borough	11.4	14.2	12.2
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>1</sup>	20.3	25.2	21.4
Juneau Borough	6.1	7.0	5.8
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>1</sup>	8.6	10.4	7.5
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA <sup>1</sup>	15.9	19.1	16.9
Sitka Borough	6.4	7.6	6.0
Skagway Municipality <sup>1</sup>	18.8	26.2	15.7
Wrangell-Petersburg CA <sup>1</sup>	10.7	13.3	10.7
Yakutat Borough	11.1	14.8	11.3
<b>Southwest Region</b>	13.6	13.5	13.5
Aleutians East Borough	7.4	7.9	7.1
Aleutians West Census Area	6.5	4.1	8.3
Bethel Census Area	16.3	17.0	15.1
Bristol Bay Borough	9.7	12.8	9.5
Dillingham Census Area	11.0	12.3	10.9
Lake and Peninsula Borough	10.0	11.9	11.4
Wade Hampton Census Area	20.9	22.4	21.8

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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

[laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov)

# Employer Resources

## Reemployment Services for Job Seekers Benefit Employers Too

As an employer, the amount of time you and your staff have to spend searching for qualified job candidates for vacant positions equals dollars lost. In a perfect world, applicants would have well-written resumes, their skills would match exactly what you're looking for, and they would be well-prepared for the interview.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Alaska Job Center Network staff envisions the same "perfect world" hiring situation for all employers in the state, large and small. To work toward that goal, the Alaska Job Center Network offers reemployment services to all Alaskans who are receiving unemployment insurance benefits.

"Our mission is to help place UI claimants in good jobs, with the right fit, to meet career goals," Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said. "Alaska's reemployment services can help develop skills to expand job opportunities and help overcome obstacles – at no cost to the worker."

Through ALEXsys, the state's online job bank for job seekers and employers, users can access employment and training resources that can help job seekers identify transferable skills and explore career tracks.

Employers benefit from the new job seeker orientation program by getting job applications, resumes and skills assessments proving that potential candidates are ready and qualified to work.

How does it work? The reemployment services are available both online through ALEXsys and through the state's 23 job centers. Participants are guided through the orientation, then choose "career tracks" that provide a description of some basic career options they may want to pursue: new job, training, GED/Adult Basic Education, apprenticeship, and self-employment.

Highlights of the orientation include information on workshops like resume writing and interviewing, and career and interest assessments through the Alaska Career Ready program, such as Career Ready 101, WorkKeys and Alaska Career Readiness Certificates.

Employers, with help from job center staff, can use WorkKeys for skills testing in reading, math and locating information that is applicable to their specific job vacancy. Once the skills assessment is prepared, job seekers are tested to see if they meet specific skill requirements for the job; if they meet the requirements, they submit their results and resumes to job center staff for screening.

For more information about various Alaska Career Ready programs, go to [jobs.alaska.gov/acrw.html](http://jobs.alaska.gov/acrw.html) or call (877) 724-2539 (ALEX). ALEXsys is online at [jobs.alaska.gov](http://jobs.alaska.gov).

### Use the Five Senses

Sight, sound, touch, smell and taste make up the five senses. Use all your senses at work to keep yourself, your co-workers and employees safe. The faint odor in the air, the barely noticeable shock you feel when using the saw or drill, the barely audible buzz coming from the electrical outlet, the strange taste you have after work every day, the speeding forklift you saw in the warehouse – they're all possible safety hazards.

You should report them immediately to your supervisor, or if you're an employer, fix them. Don't let your five senses be overwhelmed by a lack of the sixth sense – common sense.

Safety and health consultants with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Occupational Safety and Health provide free assistance and tools for employers and workers to reduce worksite injuries. AKOSH is within the Labor Standards and Safety Division. For more information, call (800) 656-4972.