

ALASKA ECONOMIC

# TRENDS

October  
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## Wade Hampton

*A focus on rural Alaska*

**Alaska Department of Labor  
and Workforce Development**

**Tony Knowles  
Governor of Alaska**



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# The Wade Hampton Census Area

by  
Brigitta Windisch-Cole  
Labor Economist

## A focus on rural Alaska

**W**ade Hampton Census Area encompasses an area of 17,124 square miles, more than twice the size of Massachusetts. The area is quintessential rural Alaska; it consists of 13 small communities, without a commercial or hub city. The nearest supply center is Bethel, located to the south on the Kuskokwim River in the adjacent census area. Most goods or services are delivered by plane, and air service is the only connection between most communities on a year-round basis. Only one land route exists in the region. St. Mary's, Pitka's Point and Mountain Village are connected by a gravel road only 22 miles long.

Nearly two thirds of the population in the Wade Hampton area lives along or close to the banks of the Yukon River, its delta arms or tributary streams. The Yukon Delta, where the population is concentrated, is a treeless wetland. The population thins toward the Interior, and most of the up-river settlements are small.

Another populated area lies in the region's southwest corner on or near the coast. Three communities, Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon Bay, are home to the remaining third of the area's population. Hooper Bay is the only settlement in the Wade Hampton Census Area with more than 1,000 residents. In terms of population growth, Scammon Bay (484 people) is the fastest growing community, averaging four percent population growth annually during the past decade. In all, only 7,060 people live in the geographically vast Wade Hampton Census Area. (See Exhibit 1.)

## The people of Wade Hampton

Wade Hampton's residents form the most homogeneous racial group within the boundaries of an Alaska census area or borough. Nearly 95 percent are Native Americans, mainly Eskimos of Yupik origin. The majority of the remaining population is white, many of whom stay in the area only for a limited time for professional reasons.

## Population in Wade Hampton Census Area

	1990	1999	Percent change 90-99
Wade Hampton Census Area	5,791	7,060	21.9%
City of Alakanuk	544	658	21.0%
City of Chevak	598	763	27.6%
City of Emmonak	642	818	27.4%
City of Hooper Bay	845	1,028	21.7%
City of Kotlik	461	579	25.6%
City of Marshall	273	318	16.5%
City of Mountain Village	674	766	13.6%
Nunam Iqua, formerly City of Sheldon Point	109	149	36.7%
Pilot Station	463	544	17.5%
Pitka's Point	135	146	8.1%
City of Russian Mission	246	311	26.4%
City of St. Mary's	441	475	7.7%
City of Scammon Bay	343	484	41.1%
Remainder of Wade Hampton Census Area	17	21	23.5%

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

A remarkable demographic characteristic is the young median age of the resident population. Half of the area's residents are less than 19.1 years in age. The prime working age population (18-64) makes up only 46 percent of the total population versus 64 percent statewide. (See Exhibit 2.) The preponderance of youth explains why households are larger in the Wade Hampton area than elsewhere in the state. It also goes a long way in explaining why the region's economic barometer swings low.

## Age influences local income measures

Wade Hampton is Alaska's poorest census area or region. Local income statistics, such as household, family and personal per capita income, and wage and salary earnings all rank the area last among Alaska regions. In 1998, for example, personal per capita income was \$12,684 (see Exhibit 2), registering 54 percent below the Alaska average and 53 percent below the national level. In part, age explains the area's low income position. A young age cohort (49 percent are below 18) shares income with their families but cannot contribute much yet, although their individual Alaska Permanent Fund dividend checks augment local income considerably. Heads of households in the Wade Hampton area tend to be young and are at the beginning of their work lives. Age demographics contribute to, but are not the primary reason Wade Hampton is Alaska's poorest area. The primary reason for the low earnings is that the area is entirely rural, and there is no administrative or commercial center to distort the socio-economic statistics of village economies. Local economic indicators show clearly that in most of Alaska's rural areas, the scarcity of jobs is the main reason for low income.

## Transfer payments play a big role

The latest personal income data for the region were compiled for 1998. More than \$87.1 million accrued for the Wade Hampton area. Just 47 percent came from employment. Transfer payments made up nearly 45 percent. (See Exhibit 3.) Such payments included all types of payments from government to individuals, ranging from retirement to public assistance payments. Fund transfers to non-profit agencies and businesses were also included.

## Income supplements do not always suffice

In 1998, nearly 38 percent of Wade Hampton's transfer payments were to provide for health

## 2 A Statistical Snapshot of the Wade Hampton Census Area

	Alaska	Wade Hampton Census Area
<b>Population (1999)</b>	622,000	7,060
<b>Age (1999)</b>		
Median age	32.9	19.1
Percent under 5 years old	8.2	14.5
Percent school age population (5 to 17)	22.9	34.1
Percent adult workforce population (18 to 64)	63.5	46.1
Percent seniors (65 years & over)	5.4	5.3
Percent female	48.0	48.0
Persons per household	2.68	4.02
<b>Ethnicity (1999)</b>		
Percent Native American	16.8	94.7
Percent White	73.7	5.2
Percent African/American	4.4	0.1
Percent Asian/Pacific Islander	5.0	0.1
Percent Hispanic	4.7	0.1
<b>Workforce</b>		
Percent unemployed (1999)	6.0	14.7
Percent nonresident workforce (1998)	19.5	6.5
<b>Income</b>		
Personal per capita income (1998)	\$27,835	\$12,684
Wage and salary income (annual average 1999)	\$33,628	\$18,595
<b>Educational attainment</b>		
Percent high school graduate or higher (1990)	86.6	57.8
Percent bachelor's degree or higher (1990)	23.0	10.2

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, and Bureau of Economic Analysis

care, and the majority of residents received these benefits. Alaska's Native population receives free health care by federal mandate. Next, the state disbursed about \$10 million in Permanent Fund earnings; these made up the bulk of the other government payments to individual residents and represented 27 percent of transfer payments. Another 20 percent, or \$7.9 million, was disbursed from state and federal sources under the various public assistance programs for individual residents. The remaining portion represented retirement and disability benefits, veteran benefits, educational programs and special grants.

The composition of the 1998 transfer payments, in particular the public assistance portion, highlights the regional economy's lack of cash. More recently, in 1999, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services confirmed that 45 percent of the Wade Hampton area resident population received some kind of public assistance, compared to 9 percent statewide. Despite the infusion of government funds, income is not sufficient to fulfill all needs in the area. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 39 percent of all related children between 5 and 17 lived in poverty in the Wade Hampton area as recently as 1995, compared to just 11 percent statewide. And in 1999, annual salaries or wages remained 45 percent below the statewide average.

This statistic results from the limited job opportunities that exist in the area on a year-round basis. Many payroll jobs are part-time or seasonal. Wade Hampton's average monthly wage, which in 1999 computed to \$1,550 per month versus \$2,803 for the rest of the state, reflects this. The low monthly average wage stems from the duration of work rather than an inherent wage disparity. Yet, at first sight, monthly average employment numbers do not reveal much of a seasonal pattern, although one clearly exists. Seasonal summer jobs simply mask the void that reduced school employment leaves during the summer break. One positive indicator is that overall wage and salary employment has grown in the Wade Hampton area during the past decade.

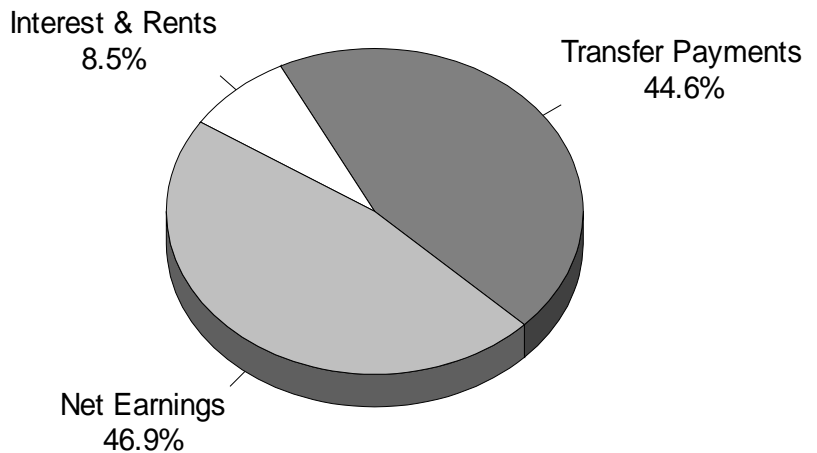
## Employment has grown

Wage and salary employment grew by 575 jobs during the 1990s. Most of the new jobs were created by the service industries, followed by the public sector and transportation. This translates to employment growth of 42 percent for the Wade Hampton area, which is nearly twice the rate the resident population grew in the past decade. (See Exhibits 2 and 4.) Other changes are noteworthy as well. Private sector employment has gained considerable ground while the public sector share, albeit growing, ended with a smaller percentage. In 1990, 68 percent of all jobs were in government versus 55 percent in 1999. (See Exhibit 5.) Privatization has played a major role and it has helped to put governance of jobs and delivery of public services into local hands. The public sector, however, remains the area's largest employer.

## Government employs the most

Nearly 1,100 wage and salary jobs belong to Wade Hampton's public sector. (See Exhibit 4.)

## Sources of Personal Income Over \$87.1 million in 1998 Wade Hampton Census Area **3**



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

Local government is its largest segment and more than 44 percent of those jobs are education related. The Lower Yukon School District has schools in 11 locations. Chevak and St. Mary's have their own districts. Schools are not only the largest single source of jobs but also the most important, simply because they exist in all inhabited communities. All three school districts are on Wade Hampton's largest employer list. Many of the other local government entities also are among the area's largest employers. (See Exhibit 6.)

### Services is the largest private sector employer

As elsewhere in the state, services is the largest private sector industry employer. Employment in service organizations, including health, social, business, entertainment and other services has been among the fastest growing in the past ten years. (See Exhibit 4.) This industry's portion of total employment would be even larger if all local service delivery jobs were counted in the Wade

Hampton Census Area. The statistical undercount stems from employers such as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, that has a vast service area covering both the Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas and even some Interior villages. But the corporation is headquartered in Bethel, where all of its payroll employment is reported.

Retail trade takes second place as a private industry employer and is followed by transportation, which posts the fastest growth rate of all industries, due to rising air service to the individual communities. Two airline companies ranked among the area's largest employers. Because they operate seasonally, all other industries average fewer than 100 jobs on an annual basis.

### Rural construction employment counts in several industries

In industry employment counts, local seasonal construction work is under-represented. Many

## 4 Wage and Salary Employment in Wade Hampton Census Area

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999*	Numeric Change 90-99	Percent Change 90-99
Nonag. Wage & Salary	1,368	1,404	1,366	1,513	1,538	1,517	1,759	1,875	1,941	1,943	575	42.0%
Construction	9	8	6	13	11	3	7	6	4	11	2	22.2%
Manufacturing	38	65	41	33	24	34	38	32	22	37	-1	-2.6%
Seafood Processing	38	62	38	33	24	34	38	32	22	37	-1	-2.6%
Transportation	17	19	44	51	62	81	111	127	132	144	127	747.1%
Trade	186	151	145	207	224	225	247	264	255	247	61	32.8%
Wholesale	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0.0%
Retail	185	150	144	206	223	224	246	263	254	246	61	33.0%
Finance/Insur/Real Est.	52	49	42	49	48	54	44	48	58	89	37	71.2%
Services & Misc.	134	148	176	192	213	201	223	260	291	342	208	155.2%
Government	932	963	911	968	957	919	1,090	1,139	1,178	1,074	142	15.2%
Federal	25	29	31	32	32	35	39	40	34	29	4	16.0%
State	28	22	20	27	29	28	42	29	34	28	0	0.0%
Local	879	912	860	909	896	856	1,009	1,070	1,110	1,017	138	15.7%

\* preliminary data

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

construction jobs are mixed in with the real estate industry division and the public sector. Local government often oversees and employs construction workers on infrastructure projects. Such governmental construction activity is captured as “force-account labor” but it falls under public sector employment.

Other “hidden” construction jobs originate at the local housing authorities that manage, build, and renovate public housing, mostly with Housing and Urban Development funds. Their employment all counts in the real estate industry. The Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), headquartered in Bethel, is the largest local housing authority. Since 1995, AVCP has built 131 new housing units, is constructing 12 additional ones this year in seven villages of the Wade Hampton area and will build 24 new units in 2001. A few villages have formed their own separate tribal housing authorities. They too receive HUD funds. These newly established authorities will build additional housing units in Emmonak, Mountain Village, and Russian Mission.

An additional reason for the undercount of the construction workforce is that private sector contractors often come from urban Alaska, where they report employment, although they may hire help locally on rural projects. Therefore, construction employment data do not reflect the increased level of construction activity in recent years.

### Construction activity is up

Villages in Wade Hampton have benefited from a big push toward infrastructure improvement. Needed public sanitation installations, such as water and sewer projects, either have been improved or will be built in the near future. In 1999 about \$15 million was spent on village sanitation projects and this year another \$14 million will be used for such upgrades. Indoor plumbing is still a sought after amenity in most residences in Wade Hampton villages. New facilities will undoubtedly add to the quality of

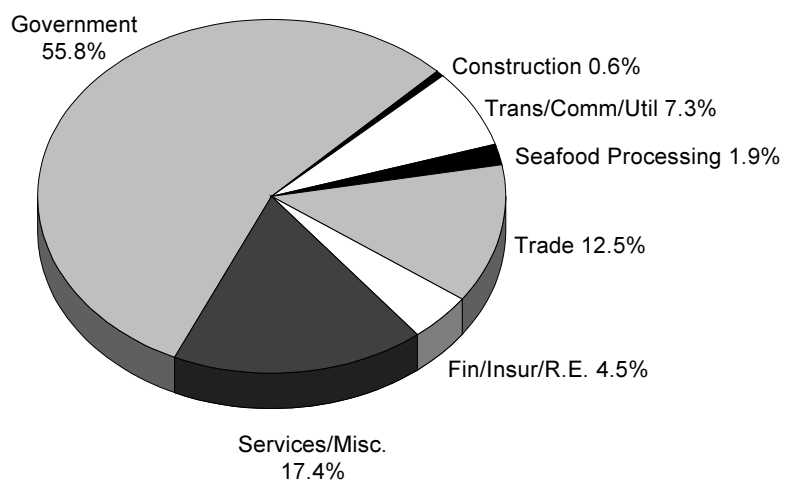
living for the residents. Airport upgrades in nine of the area’s thirteen villages are another example of recent or current public sector building activity. Bulk fuel facilities are additional current or future projects in several villages. The largest single project will be a sub-regional clinic in St. Mary’s, estimated to cost \$3.9 million.

### Seafood processing employment and the commercial fisheries

Two seafood-processing facilities and a fish buying station operate in the Wade Hampton area. Both processors are in Emmonak, and the buying station is between Mountain Village and Pitka’s Point. Usually the fishing season lasts from June through August. The prime commercial species is Yukon king salmon, famed for its high oil content. Chum salmon is the other commercial salmon species.

Over the past ten years employment has waxed and waned with the harvest results. But since

## Wage and Salary Jobs **5** Where they were in Wade Hampton in 1999



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

1992, seafood processing employment has averaged fewer than 40 jobs on an annual average basis. (See Exhibit 4.) Commercial harvests suffered during the 1990s; the ten-year catch average was 60 percent below the 1980s average harvest. The 1998 commercial salmon harvest turned into a disaster when less than one million pounds of salmon were caught. Although last year's harvest rebounded some and 1.7 million pounds of salmon were landed, this year's fishing experience turned into a catastrophic low-volume harvest. At the end of the king and summer chum season local fishers had landed only about 16,000 fish weighing in at approximately 224,500 pounds. A fall chum commercial harvest did not materialize at all. The run failure does not bode well for commercial fishers in the region.

Commercial fishers on the Yukon, as elsewhere, are self-employed and their employment does not enter wage and salary employment statistics. Permit data indicate that a large number of Wade Hampton area residents fish commercially. In 1998, for example, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission reported that 643 of the existing 704 Lower Yukon salmon permits were fished. This participation, if reflected in wage and salary employment statistics, would show the importance of commercial fishing. And this number represents only permit holders, excluding family or paid helpers who may receive a percentage of the catch's value.

A small herring fishery takes place on the coast at Cape Romanzof, which lies between Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay. This year the commercial

## 6 The Largest Employers in Wade Hampton in 1999

Rank	Name of Organization/Business	Annual Average Employment	Business/Activity
1	Lower Yukon School District	378	Public Education
2	Hageland Aviation Services Inc.	104	Airline
3	Hooper Bay City Council	77	Public Administration
4	Kashunamiut School District	61	Public Education
5	Rural Alaska Community Action Program	51	Social Services
6	City of Emmonak	51	Public Administration
7	Kotlik City Council	45	Public Administration
8	Alaska Commercial Company	41	Grocery/General Merchandise
9	St. Mary's School District	37	Public Education
10	Chevak City Council	37	Public Administration
11	Alakanuk City Council	33	Public Administration
12	City of Pilot Station	31	Public Administration
13	City of Mountain Village	30	Public Administration
14	Azachorok Inc.	30	Grocery/General Merchandise
15	Kuigpagmiut Inc.	26	Civic/Social Services
16	Alakanuk Native Corp.	26	Grocery/General Merchandise
17	City of Russian Mission	25	Public Administration
18	Chevak Traditional Council	25	Civic/Social Services
19	U.S. Postal Service	25	Postal Service
20	Grant Aviation	24	Airline

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



harvest was 496 short tons of herring, which were caught for their roe content. Income earned from both the salmon and herring fisheries has fluctuated widely during the 1990s, ranging between a high of \$9.2 million in 1992 and a low of \$1.8 million in 1998. (See Exhibit 7.) 1999 was a better harvest year. Local earnings amounted to nearly \$4.5 million. The year 2000 commercial harvest will amount to a mere fraction of that.

Fishing is a mainstay in the Wade Hampton economy. It is the core subsistence activity and also produces much needed cash. In recent years a high seas fishery has developed. During the early 1990s, fishery regulatory changes initiated the community development quota (CDQ) program that allows coastal communities in western Alaska to reap benefits from the Bering Sea fisheries. Ocean frontage proved to be a big advantage for the Wade Hampton area.

Since 1992, coastal communities in western Alaska formed six CDQ groups, which own exclusive harvest shares in the bountiful Bering Sea fisheries. Their programs have developed into a multi-species fishery, covering all commercial ground and flatfish species and also the crab fisheries. The CDQ fishery has become a big industry component in Bering Sea seafood catches. Some of the groups own vessels and fish their own allocation. Others lease their harvest share to other industry players for a take of the allotted catch. Two groups represent the coastal villages of Wade Hampton. Hooper Bay, Chevak, and Scammon Bay belong to the Coastal Villages Region Fund, which includes the ocean villages of the neighboring Bethel Census Area. Four delta villages, Alakanuk, Emmonak, Kotlik, and Nunam Iqua (Sheldon Point) formed the Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association.

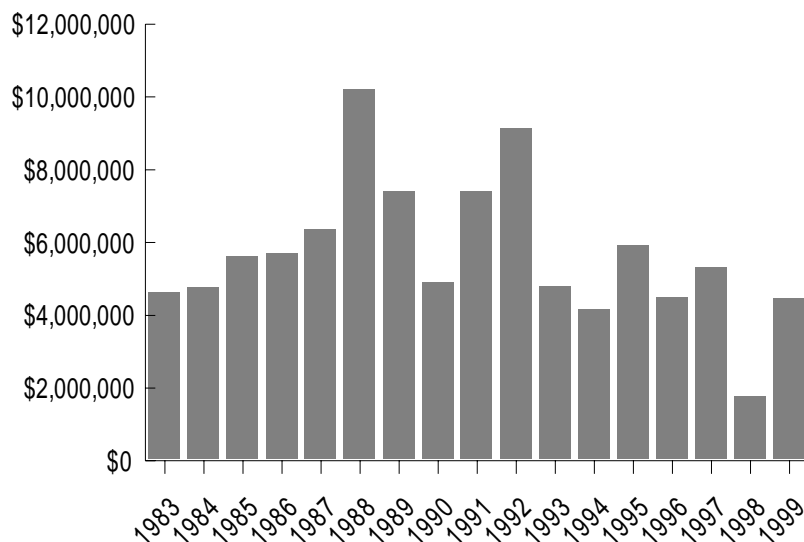
The CDQ groups have invested the earnings from the deep-sea fisheries in economic development. For example, they have established job training and placement programs for residents

from the CDQ villages, financed equipment for local fishers, invested in deep-sea fishing vessels and processing plants, set up seafood marketing offices, and made other investments in fishery-related businesses. Although the CDQ groups are fairly new business entities, their success lies not only in current business profits but also in their long-term goal to involve more local residents in the lucrative Bering Sea fisheries. Traditionally, the fisheries have always been a cultural centerpiece and measure of well being, where success is not measured in cash alone.

### Subsistence fisheries are big non-cash economies

For thousands of years local residents have fished along the shores of the Yukon River and relied on its resources. The river is still of high economic importance as a food resource. Although residents now live in communities, fishing season calls for setting up summer camps to catch and prepare a

## Income from Fisheries Down for Wade Hampton residents



Source: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

staple food supply for the long winters. The subsistence fishery stretches cash resources because fish substitutes for store-bought goods. The cost of food purchased in the local stores is among the highest in the state because of high transportation costs and tiny, widely dispersed consumer markets. This year's harvest failure has threatened the subsistence fishery, and imposes severe economic hardship on the residents of the region.

Usually, both king and chum salmon are heavily used as a subsistence resource. According to a 1999 Alaska Department of Fish and Game survey, a total of 632 households in the Wade Hampton area fished for personal use. This means that over one third of all households in the area caught fish, which is shared with those who do not, according to tradition. The 1999 subsistence harvest netted over 21,000 chinook (king), 62,000 chum (dog) and over 5,000 coho (silver) salmon, translating to about 940,000 pounds of salmon. Fish is used both for human consumption and as dog food.

Other subsistence activities are the famed coastal village sea mammal hunts and the collecting of eggs from the nests of migratory birds. Much of the Wade Hampton area is a marshland with an abundance of nesting birds. Along the coast the traditional sea mammal hunts remain big ceremonial community events, and the villagers share all hunting successes. Although the subsistence life style remains an important ingredient in the local economies and is part of the culture, a transition to a market economy has been occurring, giving wage and salary employment a pivotal role.

## **Employment opportunities are scarce**

The remote rural setting, vast distances, and the small community economies all limit workforce and career development in the Wade Hampton area. Often residents of the area have to seek seasonal employment far away from home to earn incomes to support their families. Many of Alaska's seasonally hired firefighters, for example, come from the villages of the Wade Hampton area. Such work often is just a stop-gap for urgent cash needs and does not fully cover family expenditures for an entire year. In many cases, the lack of year-round jobs causes residents to leave their homes. Migration for the past seven years for the Wade Hampton area has been negative; more people left the area than moved into it. Various job-training programs have been launched to retain and build a local workforce. Training and education will facilitate the transition to a market economy.

## **Conclusion**

The Wade Hampton area is a typical Alaska rural place, remote and distant, where cash economies are gaining importance. The mainstay of the economy remains fisheries, which are the main link between the traditional and cash based economy. The year 2000 has turned into a disastrous season that has eroded both commercial and subsistence fishery value. It affects nearly all residents because so many rely on salmon as a subsistence resource. The area's other and even larger economy revolves around the wide range of service delivery to its people. Improved infrastructure and easier access remain key elements in rural development. Recent and planned projects have brought amenities and an improved standard of living for residents. Development of market economies, however, will remain a big challenge.

# Alaska Employment Scene

by  
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## Economy Settles into Stability

### July brings labor shortages, low unemployment

**I**n the middle of its peak season, Alaska's economy posted an annual job growth rate of 1.8%. The state's unemployment rate also improved in July and tied a record low of 4.7% for that month. (See Exhibit 4.) Such a low rate for July occurred only once before, in 1998.

Tight labor markets characterized this summer's employment scene. Labor shortages surfaced in seafood processing, construction, retail and other tourism-related industries. Anchorage's consumer prices registered a modest increase from last year's mid-year measure, less than one percent. Low inflation and unemployment plus job growth, albeit slow, suggest that stability is currently the motto for Alaska's economy.

### Employment fluctuates by sector

Employment increased over the month by 7,900 jobs in July. (See Exhibit 1.) The seafood processing industry alone added 6,800 jobs as fishing activities picked up in Bristol Bay, the South Alaska Peninsula area, Kodiak, and Cook Inlet. Tourism-related industries, such as services and retail, also contributed strongly to over-the-month employment gains. Accelerating construction activity pushed up employment in that industry by 900. Public sector employment contracted because of school vacation. The over-the-month drop in federal government jobs can be attributed to the termination of U.S. census takers.

The addition of 5,200 new jobs over the year was fueled by a variety of industries. The services sector was up 2,300 jobs, led by health care and

hotel employment. Construction posted 300 more jobs than a year ago. The transportation sector performed well with an over-the-year employment gain of 600. Air transportation supported half of these new jobs. Public sector employment was also stronger in July than a year ago because the federal government retained a portion of its census workforce. Local government employment slightly increased while state government employment showed no change over the year. Manufacturing employment dipped slightly. Most of the negatives stemmed from the timber industry. Some of the losses were offset by small gains in seafood processing employment. Retail employment, despite a few setbacks, increased by 900 jobs, or 1.7%, from last July's tally.

### Employment in retail is a mixed bag

Over 30 percent of the gain in retail employment this year came from eating and drinking establishments. With an impetus from tourism, a variety of places, ranging from fine dining to fast food, have opened their doors. Many of the new places in Anchorage are establishments with a national reputation. Catering companies also have helped strengthen employment growth in the food services category. Such firms often support the North Slope oil industry workforce. Employment in those firms has rebounded in tandem with the oil industry workforce. Alaska's oil industry had 700 more jobs than last July. The development of the Alpine and the Northstar oil fields has helped recovery in both industries. Other retail's growth performance was mixed.

*(continued on page 14)*

# 1 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

## By place of work

Alaska	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	7/00	6/00	7/99	6/00	7/99
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	302,200	294,300	297,000	7,900	5,200
Goods-producing	47,800	40,000	46,900	7,800	900
Service-producing	254,400	254,300	250,100	100	4,300
<b>Mining</b>	10,000	9,900	9,300	100	700
Oil & Gas Extraction	8,300	8,300	7,600	0	700
<b>Construction</b>	17,100	16,200	16,800	900	300
<b>Manufacturing</b>	20,700	13,900	20,800	6,800	-100
Durable Goods	3,000	3,000	3,300	0	-300
Lumber & Wood Products	1,800	1,700	2,100	100	-300
Nondurable Goods	17,700	10,900	17,500	6,800	200
Seafood Processing	15,100	8,300	14,800	6,800	300
<b>Transportation/Comm/Utilities</b>	29,100	28,600	28,500	500	600
Trucking & Warehousing	3,200	3,200	3,100	0	100
Water Transportation	2,400	2,300	2,300	100	100
Air Transportation	10,400	10,200	10,100	200	300
Communications	5,200	5,200	5,100	0	100
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Svcs.	2,900	2,800	2,900	100	0
<b>Trade</b>	62,900	61,700	62,100	1,200	800
Wholesale Trade	9,600	9,300	9,700	300	-100
Retail Trade	53,300	52,400	52,400	900	900
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	9,600	9,800	9,500	-200	100
Food Stores	7,100	7,000	7,200	100	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	19,200	18,800	18,900	400	300
<b>Finance/Insurance/Real Estate</b>	13,200	13,200	13,200	0	0
<b>Services &amp; Misc.</b>	78,400	77,400	76,100	1,000	2,300
Hotels & Lodging Places	10,400	9,800	9,900	600	500
Business Services	9,400	9,000	9,400	400	0
Health Services	16,700	16,700	15,800	0	900
Legal Services	1,700	1,700	1,700	0	0
Social Services	8,000	8,100	7,700	-100	300
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	8,300	8,300	8,200	0	100
<b>Government</b>	70,800	73,400	70,200	-2,600	600
Federal	17,800	18,100	17,500	-300	300
State	21,000	21,100	21,000	-100	0
Local	32,000	34,200	31,700	-2,200	300

Municipality of Anchorage	preliminary	revised	Changes from:		
	7/00	6/00	7/99	6/00	7/99
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	137,200	137,100	135,100	100	2,100
Goods-producing	14,000	13,300	13,600	700	400
Service-producing	123,200	123,800	121,500	-600	1,700
<b>Mining</b>	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Oil & Gas Extraction	2,500	2,500	2,400	0	100
<b>Construction</b>	8,900	8,300	8,700	600	200
<b>Manufacturing</b>	2,400	2,300	2,300	100	100
<b>Transportation/Comm/Utilities</b>	15,000	14,900	14,600	100	400
Air Transportation	6,400	6,300	6,100	100	300
Communications	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100
<b>Trade</b>	32,700	32,600	32,500	100	200
Wholesale Trade	6,700	6,600	6,700	100	0
Retail Trade	26,000	26,000	25,800	0	200
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	4,900	4,900	4,700	0	200
Food Stores	2,700	2,800	2,800	-100	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	9,500	9,600	9,400	-100	100
<b>Finance/Insurance/Real Estate</b>	7,800	7,800	7,800	0	0
<b>Services &amp; Misc.</b>	40,500	40,300	39,400	200	1,100
Hotels & Lodging Places	3,600	3,600	3,400	0	200
Business Services	6,600	6,400	6,700	200	-100
Health Services	8,800	8,700	8,300	100	500
Legal Services	1,200	1,200	1,200	0	0
Social Services	4,000	4,100	3,900	-100	100
Engineering & Mgmt. Svcs.	6,000	6,100	6,000	-100	0
<b>Government</b>	27,200	28,200	27,200	-1,000	0
Federal	9,800	10,100	9,900	-300	-100
State	8,200	8,300	8,200	-100	0
Local	9,200	9,800	9,100	-600	100

Notes to Exhibits 1, 2, & 3—Nonagricultural excludes self-employed workers, fishers, domestics, and unpaid family workers as well as agricultural workers. Government category includes employees of public school systems and the University of Alaska.

Exhibits 1 & 2—Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Exhibit 3—Prepared in part with funding from the Employment Security Division.

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

# 2 Hours and Earnings

## For selected industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	preliminary 7/00	revised 6/00	7/99	preliminary 7/00	revised 6/00	7/99	preliminary 7/00	revised 6/00	7/99
Mining	\$1,305.64	\$1,300.48	\$1,415.80	49.4	50.8	54.1	\$26.43	\$25.60	\$26.17
Construction	1,356.78	1,249.44	1,302.00	48.7	45.6	46.7	27.86	27.40	27.88
Manufacturing	611.44	546.40	615.23	50.2	40.0	51.7	12.18	13.66	11.90
Seafood Processing	580.94	424.47	580.53	53.2	38.8	55.5	10.92	10.94	10.46
Transportation/Comm/Utilities	774.40	702.70	721.08	35.2	33.8	36.0	22.00	20.79	20.03
Trade	489.03	475.96	438.72	35.8	35.1	33.8	13.66	13.56	12.98
Wholesale Trade	742.77	685.81	652.36	40.5	38.9	37.6	18.34	17.63	17.35
Retail Trade	445.55	440.91	401.39	35.0	34.5	33.2	12.73	12.78	12.09
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	617.02	599.16	583.20	35.4	35.1	36.0	17.43	17.07	16.20

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

Benchmark: March 1999

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

# 3 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

## By place of work

	preliminary		Changes from:			preliminary		revised		Changes from:	
	7/00	6/00	7/99	6/00	7/99	7/00	6/00	7/99	6/00	7/99	
<b>Fairbanks</b>											
<b>North Star Borough</b>											
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	36,000	35,550	35,400	450	600						
Goods-producing	4,000	3,800	4,000	200	0						
Service-producing	32,000	31,750	31,400	250	600						
<b>Mining</b>	1,000	1,050	950	-50	50						
<b>Construction</b>	2,350	2,150	2,400	200	-50						
<b>Manufacturing</b>	650	600	650	50	0						
<b>Transportation/Comm/Utilities</b>	3,550	3,450	3,500	100	50						
Trucking & Warehousing	750	700	700	50	50						
Air Transportation	950	950	950	0	0						
Communications	450	450	450	0	0						
<b>Trade</b>	7,200	7,150	7,300	50	-100						
Wholesale Trade	800	800	850	0	-50						
Retail Trade	6,400	6,350	6,450	50	-50						
Gen. Merchandise & Apparel	1,100	1,050	1,200	50	-100						
Food Stores	750	750	750	0	0						
Eating & Drinking Places	2,350	2,350	2,300	0	50						
<b>Finance/Insurance/Real Estate</b>	1,300	1,300	1,250	0	50						
<b>Services &amp; Misc.</b>	9,400	9,200	9,250	200	150						
Hotels & Lodging Places	1,350	1,300	1,300	50	50						
Health Services	2,000	2,050	1,950	-50	50						
<b>Government</b>	10,550	10,650	10,100	-100	450						
Federal	3,550	3,650	3,450	-100	100						
State	4,400	4,300	4,100	100	300						
Local	2,600	2,700	2,550	-100	50						
<b>Southeast Region</b>											
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	40,700	38,900	40,150	1,800	550						
Goods-producing	6,950	5,450	6,900	1,500	50						
Service-producing	33,750	33,450	33,250	300	500						
<b>Mining</b>	300	300	300	0	0						
<b>Construction</b>	2,050	2,050	1,850	0	200						
<b>Manufacturing</b>	4,600	3,100	4,750	1,500	-150						
Durable Goods	1,500	1,500	1,750	0	-250						
Lumber & Wood Products	1,250	1,250	1,500	0	-250						
Nondurable Goods	3,100	1,600	3,000	1,500	100						
Seafood Processing	2,800	1,300	2,700	1,500	100						
<b>Transportation/Comm/Utilities</b>	3,600	3,550	3,550	50	50						
<b>Trade</b>	7,600	7,450	7,600	150	0						
Wholesale Trade	650	650	700	0	-50						
Retail Trade	6,950	6,800	6,900	150	50						
Food Stores	1,300	1,300	1,400	0	-100						
<b>Finance/Insurance/Real Estate</b>	1,300	1,250	1,250	50	50						
<b>Services &amp; Misc.</b>	9,250	9,100	8,900	150	350						
Health Services	1,750	1,750	1,650	0	100						
<b>Government</b>	12,000	12,100	11,950	-100	50						
Federal	2,100	2,050	1,950	50	150						
State	5,000	5,050	5,200	-50	-200						
Local	4,900	5,000	4,800	-100	100						
<b>Northern Region</b>											
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	15,000	14,900	14,300	100	700						
Goods-producing	5,400	5,300	4,750	100	650						
Service-producing	9,600	9,600	9,550	0	50						
<b>Mining</b>	4,750	4,700	4,100	50	650						
Oil & Gas Extraction	4,250	4,200	3,600	50	650						
<b>Government</b>	4,150	4,150	4,200	0	-50						
Federal	150	150	200	0	-50						
State	300	300	300	0	0						
Local	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0						
<b>Interior Region</b>											
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	43,050	42,500	42,650	550	400						
Goods-producing	4,300	4,100	4,400	200	-100						
Service-producing	38,750	38,400	38,250	350	500						
<b>Mining</b>	1,150	1,150	1,100	0	50						
<b>Construction</b>	2,450	2,300	2,600	150	-150						
<b>Manufacturing</b>	700	650	700	50	0						
<b>Transportation/Comm/Utilities</b>	4,550	4,350	4,450	200	100						
<b>Trade</b>	9,150	9,000	9,300	150	-150						
<b>Finance/Insurance/Real Estate</b>	1,350	1,400	1,300	-50	50						
<b>Services &amp; Misc.</b>	11,050	10,700	10,900	350	150						
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,050	1,900	1,950	150	100						
<b>Government</b>	12,650	12,950	12,300	-300	350						
Federal	4,200	4,300	4,150	-100	50						
State	4,700	4,550	4,400	150	300						
Local	3,750	4,100	3,750	-350	0						
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>											
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	151,100	151,050	148,050	50	3,050						
Goods-producing	15,400	14,750	15,000	650	400						
Service-producing	135,700	136,300	133,050	-600	2,650						
<b>Mining</b>	2,750	2,700	2,650	50	100						
<b>Construction</b>	10,150	9,600	9,950	550	200						
<b>Manufacturing</b>	2,500	2,450	2,400	50	100						
<b>Transportation/Comm/Utilities</b>	16,000	15,800	15,600	200	400						
<b>Trade</b>	36,500	36,250	35,950	250	550						
<b>Finance/Insurance/Real Estate</b>	8,350	8,350	8,350	0	0						
<b>Services &amp; Misc.</b>	44,500	44,250	43,000	250	1,500						
<b>Government</b>	30,350	31,650	30,150	-1,300	200						
Federal	10,100	10,300	10,100	-200	0						
State	9,000	9,150	9,000	-150	0						
Local	11,250	12,200	11,050	-950	200						
<b>Southwest Region</b>											
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	19,900	16,450	19,950	3,450	-50						
Goods-producing	6,800	3,450	6,650	3,350	150						
Service-producing	13,100	13,000	13,300	100	-200						
Seafood Processing	6,500	3,200	6,350	3,300	150						
<b>Government</b>	5,350	5,450	5,300	-100	50						
Federal	400	350	350	50	50						
State	550	500	550	50	0						
Local	4,400	4,600	4,400	-200	0						
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>											
<b>Total Nonag. Wage &amp; Salary</b>	32,500	30,550	32,100	1,950	400						
Goods-producing	9,100	6,950	9,150	2,150	-50						
Service-producing	23,400	23,600	22,950	-200	450						
<b>Mining</b>	1,050	1,050	1,050	0	0						
Oil & Gas Extraction	1,000	1,050	1,050	-50	-50						
<b>Construction</b>	1,600	1,500	1,550	100	50						
<b>Manufacturing</b>	6,450	4,400	6,550	2,050	-100						
Seafood Processing	5,500	3,450	5,550	2,050	-50						
<b>Transportation/Comm/Utilities</b>	2,700	2,650	2,600	50	100						
<b>Trade</b>	6,650	6,350	6,550	300	100						
Wholesale Trade	800	700	800	100	0						
Retail Trade	5,850	5,650	5,750	200	100						
Eating & Drinking Places	2,150	2,000	2,100	150	50						
<b>Finance/Insurance/Real Estate</b>	900	900	850	0	50						
<b>Services &amp; Misc.</b>	6,800	6,800	6,650	0	150						
Health Services	1,150	1,150	1,150	0	0						
<b>Government</b>	6,350	6,900	6,300	-550	50						
Federal	850	900	800	-50	50						
State	1,500	1,500	1,550	0	-50						
Local	4,000	4,500	3,950	-500	50						

# 4 Unemployment Rates By region and census area

(continued from page 11)

Not Seasonally Adjusted	Percent Unemployed		
	preliminary	revised	
	7/00	6/00	7/99
<b>United States</b>	4.2	4.2	4.5
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	4.7	6.0	5.5
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	4.0	4.9	4.8
Municipality of Anchorage	3.6	4.4	4.2
Mat-Su Borough	5.8	7.1	7.5
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	5.2	8.0	7.0
Kenai Peninsula Borough	6.0	7.0	8.3
Kodiak Island Borough	3.7	12.3	4.4
Valdez-Cordova	4.2	5.6	4.9
<b>Interior Region</b>	4.8	6.1	5.2
Denali Borough	2.5	3.3	3.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	4.4	5.6	4.9
Southeast Fairbanks	7.9	8.9	7.0
Yukon-Koyukuk	11.5	15.1	12.2
<b>Northern Region</b>	10.4	13.2	12.4
Nome	10.7	14.0	13.9
North Slope Borough	9.1	11.2	8.8
Northwest Arctic Borough	11.9	14.9	15.6
<b>Southeast Region</b>	4.3	5.6	5.0
Haines Borough	3.2	5.1	5.0
Juneau Borough	3.6	4.2	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	4.2	6.2	5.3
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	8.7	11.6	8.4
Sitka Borough	3.3	5.1	4.3
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon	4.5	5.1	4.9
Wrangell-Petersburg	4.5	6.3	4.9
Yakutat Borough	8.6	12.6	6.6
<b>Southwest Region</b>	8.1	12.3	8.1
Aleutians East Borough	1.6	4.6	3.0
Aleutians West	6.5	9.0	9.4
Bethel	8.8	12.8	8.4
Bristol Bay Borough	4.1	10.5	2.2
Dillingham	4.2	9.5	4.9
Lake & Peninsula Borough	6.5	11.4	6.1
Wade Hampton	16.6	21.8	14.6
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>			
United States	4.0	4.0	4.3
Alaska Statewide	5.5	6.1	6.0

#### March 1999 Benchmark

Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series produced by Research and Analysis. The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has not made an active attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of the reference month. Due to the scarcity of employment opportunities in rural Alaska, many individuals do not meet the official definition of unemployed because they have not conducted an active job search. They are considered not in the labor force.

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

Retail's best performer was the building supply sector, which marched ahead at three percent. The upbeat climate in construction has created jobs. This sector is set to grow further because Home Depot has announced that it will build another store in Anchorage.

Another growing retail specialty is the automotive retail sector. Car dealerships, gasoline stations, and automotive parts stores belong to this category. Together, they have created 150 new jobs since July, 1999. Among parts retailers, Schuck's Auto Supply has become the largest player in less than two years of operation. The company took over the Grand Auto Supply stores and added several new stores.

The apparel and general merchandise sector grew by a mere 100 jobs compared to July, 1999. The closure of the Lamonts stores left a 300-worker dent in employment counts. In September, Gottschalks occupied the former Lamonts stores causing employment to recover. The sale of Lamonts to Gottschalks illustrated the clout of national retailers in Alaska's retail market. In recent years a prototype retail structure for U.S. cities has emerged, of which Anchorage, in particular, has become a near mirror image. Big box stores, such as Walmart/Sam's Club, Kmart, Costco and Fred Meyer dominate the market along with several establishments in the apparel and general merchandise categories. A new Fred Meyer store will further broaden national retailers' presence in Anchorage.

Last year's big change among Alaska's grocery merchants, the purchase of Carrs by Safeway, caused employment to dip in that sector. Some of the losses were recovered when Alaska Market Place took over six of the Safeway/Carrs stores and other competition hired more staff. However, some of these gains will be lost because Alaska Market Place recently closed three of their six stores. As a result they estimate that between 100 and 150 workers will lose their jobs. Although the retail scene keeps changing, it remains a large and growing industry in the state. Labor shortages were most common in retail industries this summer.

## Anchorage's consumer prices stable

The release of the consumer price index brought more good news. Overall prices for consumer goods in Anchorage rose little since June 1999, only 0.9%. Despite the dramatic hike in gasoline prices, Anchorage consumers have experienced a year of relative price stability. While consumer prices actually fell by 0.2% between July and December of 1999, there was a 1.1% increase during the first half of 2000.

# EMPLOYER RESOURCES

A screenshot of a "JOB ORDER BY FAX" form. The form is titled "Alaska Job Center Network... where people and jobs connect!" and "JOB ORDER BY FAX". It includes a "Print this form, fill it out, and fax it to 1-888-398-9243, if you prefer, you can fax it to your nearest Job Center." instruction. The form fields include: Business/Company Name; Employment Security Tax Account or Federal Employer Identification Number; Business Name on Workers' Compensation Policy; Contact person; Telephone; Fax; Email; Physical Address; City, State, Zip; Work Location; Job Title Opening(s); Pay Range: Minimum; Maximum; Per; List Pay Rate on Job Posting: Yes / No; Pay Comments (example DOE); Work Start Date; Projected Work End Date; Hours Per Week; Number of Openings; Number of Referrals; and Description of Job Duties (include tools, equipment, software, typing, licenses, etc.).

Employers, do you have a job you would like to recruit through the Alaska Job Center Network?

It's easy! You can use our UPDATED job order fax form. You can print the fax form and complete it at your convenience. Once the form is completed you can fax it to 1-888-398-9243. If you prefer, you can fax it to your nearest Job Center. Your job will be posted on Alaska's Job Bank and America's Job Bank.