# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

SEPTEMBER 2010

# Industry and Occupational Forecasts

## 2008 to 2018

WHAT'S INSIDE




ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor
Commissioner Click Bishop

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& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska**
**Commissioner Click Bishop**

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**Brynn Keith, Chief**
**Research and Analysis**

Erik Stimpfle, Editor
Sam Dapcevich, Graphic Artist

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## *Trends* Authors

Kelsey Kost, an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development economist, specializes in industry and occupation information. To reach her, call (907)465-6040 or email her at Kelsey.Kost@alaska.gov.

Todd Mosher, a Department of Labor economist in Juneau, specializes in industry and occupation information. To reach him, call (907)465-6042 or email him at Todd.Mosher@alaska.gov.

Joy Wilkinson, a former Department of Labor economist, has taken a position with the Department of Revenue in Juneau. She specializes in non-oil revenue analysis and forecasts. To reach her, call (907) 465-3682 or email her at Joy.Wilkinson@alaska.gov.

Liz Baron, a Department of Labor economist in Juneau, specializes in statewide employment and wages. To reach her, call (907) 465-6036 or email her at Liz.Baron@alaska.gov.

Rob Kreiger, a Department of Labor economist in Juneau, specializes in wage record analysis. To reach him, call (907) 465-6028 or email Rob.Kreiger@alaska.gov.

# Slow and Modest Job Growth in Alaska Through 2018

**By Commissioner Click Bishop**

This month's *Trends* spotlights Alaska's job forecast from two perspectives: what occupations will need to be filled and in what industry. Projections point to nearly 123,000 job openings in Alaska by 2018 – 33,670 new jobs and 89,000 from vacancies.

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development has developed a new tool for job seekers, counselors and placement professionals, and education and training providers. Alaska's *Top Jobs* list is comprised of 58 occupations that are projected to be in demand in Alaska – and that pay well.

The list ranges from firefighters and police officers, to carpenters and construction equipment operators, to registered nurses and dental hygienists. It also shows there are many pathways to one of these high demand jobs including apprenticeship, bachelor's or advanced degree, associate degree, certification, or on-the-job training.

We've been focusing on connecting education and training in Alaska through a partnership between the Alaska Department of Labor, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, and University of Alaska. By joining forces and working together, the state will make better use of its resources and be able to produce a qualified workforce that will be needed to keep Alaska competitive.

The partnership has produced a first-ever, comprehensive "Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan" to help youth and adults obtain meaningful employment. The plan supports a connected system of statewide resources that focuses on both the education and training needs of students and the workforce needs in the state.

Building on the "Gasline Training Plan" and the "Alaska Education Plan," the Alaska CTE plan calls for helping current and future workers identify interests; determine career goals; and develop the personal, academic, and technical skills and abilities to accomplish those goals.

By aligning career and technical training programs in the state, we can provide maximum efficiency, effectiveness, and access for all Alaskans. CTE enhances students' education by providing rigor and relevance to academic and career preparation. In a world and workplace that is rapidly changing and evolving, successful job seekers need to develop these strategies early and use them continuously throughout their careers.

We're going to need the help of all of our stakeholders to realize this connected system – in the end, Alaska and Alaskans will benefit.

Alaska Career and Technical Education Plan
http://labor.alaska.gov/awib/forms/AK_CTE_Plan_AUG2010.pdf

Gasline Training Plan
http://labor.alaska.gov/AGIA_teams/docs-combined/agiaweb.pdf

Alaska Education Plan
http://labor.alaska.gov/awib/2009-may-mtg-binder/cte.pdf

# Alaska's 10-Year Industry Forecast

By Kelsey Kost
and Todd Mosher,
Economists

## A look at industries, 2008 to 2018

Between 2008 and 2018, Alaska is projected to recover from the aftermath of the recent recession and add 33,670 jobs, an increase of 10.5 percent. (See Exhibits 1, 2 and 3.) This compares to a 10.1 percent gain for the United States as a whole.

Alaska's industry forecast is the result of varying rates of growth in different industries. Relatively slow growth is expected in most of the largest sectors including government, retail trade, finance, and education. Somewhat stronger growth is expected in small to medium size industries such as metal mining; utilities; and professional, scientific, and technical services. Exceptional growth is forecasted for health care related industries.

### Health care and social assistance expected to grow

Health care and social assistance is expected to experience the largest amount of growth of any industry over the projection period, up 9,400 jobs or 26.5 percent. (See Exhibit 1.) This sector alone will be responsible for about 28 percent of the state's total projected employment gains.

Many health care related industries are strongly influenced by changes in the population of older Alaskans. The population of Alaskans age 65 and above is expected to rise by at least 50 percent during the projection period. Consequently, there will be exceptional job growth in doctors' and health care providers' offices, hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities, and among providers of social services for the elderly.

In 2009, while other industries suffered significant job losses, health care employment actually grew by about 4 percent. Further employment gains will follow new construction and expansions of health care facilities. These include Norton Sound Health Corporation's new hospital in Nome; new health care centers in Willow, Chistochina, and Hoonah; and the expansion of Providence Medical Center in Anchorage. Perhaps this is a harbinger for what is to come.

### Construction will likely recover and add jobs

From 2008 to 2018, Alaska's construction industry is projected to increase by 1,960 jobs or 11.3 percent. Construction is more cyclical than most industries and ups and downs can be expected during any ten year period. But 2009 was more than a typical bump in the road, and average construction employment dropped by 6.4 percent in 2009 as a result of the recession.

Projected growth in construction will be broad-based with moderate employment gains in the construction of buildings, heavy and civil engineering projects, and specialty trade construction. Federal stimulus money and the growing need for new infrastructure may spur some projects, and the recovery of industries that fell off in 2009 may trigger pent-up demand for construction that was put on hold.

### Slower growth expected for retail, wholesale, and leisure and hospitality

Retail trade is expected to rise by 2,970 jobs or 8.2 percent. (See Exhibit 1.) This modest growth is a little under Alaska's projected growth in population over the period. When the setback

of the recession is considered, the retail employment projection falls closely in line with population growth. Retail trade is expected to grow more than wholesale trade over the period, primarily because it will be the first to recover from the recession.

Industries that rely heavily on tourism have experienced large losses as a result of the recession. As the economies in the lower 48 recover, the number of tourists coming to Alaska is expected to bounce back.

Moderate growth in Alaska's resident population plus a bit of a boost from the return of tourists will allow the leisure and hospitality industry – which includes accommodations, restaurants, bars, and tourist attractions – to overcome the recession and eke out a modest 6 percent gain during the projection period.

## Metal and coal mining jobs likely to increase

Employment in Alaska's mines is projected to grow by 360 jobs or 17 percent. (See Exhibit 1.) The Kensington Gold Mine, near Juneau, will be increasing employment as it shifts from construction to mining. The Red Dog Mine in Northwestern Alaska is set to meet the end of its life during the projection period, but it has applied for permits to mine the adjacent Aqqaluk deposit. This would extend the life of the mine through 2030.

Additional employment may come from other promising projects which include the Chuitna Coal Mine, Donlin Creek Mine, Livengood Mine, Nixon Fork Gold Mine, and Rock Creek/Big Hurrah Mine.[1]

[1] The employment projection does not assume any employment gains from the proposed Pebble Mine.

## Statewide Employment Forecast by Industry 1
### 2008 to 2018, Alaska

| | 2008 | 2018 | Change from 2008 to 2018 | Total Percentage Change[2] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Employment[1] | 321,770 | 355,440 | 33,670 | 10.5% |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 15,940 | 17,410 | 1,470 | 9.2% |
| Mining | 15,160 | 16,680 | 1,520 | 10.0% |
| Oil and Gas Extraction | 3,520 | 3,720 | 200 | 5.7% |
| Mining (except Oil and Gas) | 2,120 | 2,480 | 360 | 17.0% |
| Support Activities for Mining | 9,520 | 10,480 | 960 | 10.1% |
| Construction | 17,260 | 19,220 | 1,960 | 11.3% |
| Manufacturing | 12,990 | 13,600 | 610 | 4.7% |
| Seafood Product Preparation and Packaging | 9,030 | 9,320 | 290 | 3.2% |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 68,790 | 74,850 | 6,060 | 8.8% |
| Wholesale Trade | 6,540 | 6,880 | 340 | 5.2% |
| Retail Trade | 36,230 | 39,200 | 2,970 | 8.2% |
| Transportation and Warehousing[3] | 24,130 | 26,620 | 2,490 | 10.3% |
| Utilities | 1,890 | 2,150 | 260 | 13.8% |
| Information | 7,000 | 7,250 | 250 | 3.7% |
| Financial Activities | 14,840 | 16,190 | 1,350 | 9.1% |
| Finance and Insurance | 8,960 | 9,810 | 850 | 9.5% |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 5,880 | 6,380 | 500 | 8.5% |
| Professional and Business Services | 26,220 | 29,230 | 3,010 | 11.5% |
| Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 13,180 | 14,810 | 1,630 | 12.3% |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | 1,210 | 1,340 | 130 | 10.9% |
| Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 11,830 | 13,090 | 1,260 | 10.6% |
| Education and Health Services | 64,360 | 75,910 | 11,550 | 17.9% |
| Educational Services, Public and Private[4] | 28,880 | 31,020 | 2,140 | 7.4% |
| Health Care and Social Assistance, Public and Private[5] | 35,490 | 44,890 | 9,400 | 26.5% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 32,180 | 34,120 | 1,940 | 6.0% |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 4,510 | 4,700 | 190 | 4.1% |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 27,670 | 29,430 | 1,760 | 6.3% |
| Other Services (Except Government) | 11,710 | 12,950 | 1,240 | 10.6% |
| Government | 50,490 | 54,720 | 4,230 | 8.4% |
| Federal Government[6] | 15,100 | 16,230 | 1,130 | 7.5% |
| State Government[7] | 17,030 | 18,700 | 1,670 | 9.8% |
| Local Government[8] | 18,350 | 19,790 | 1,440 | 7.8% |

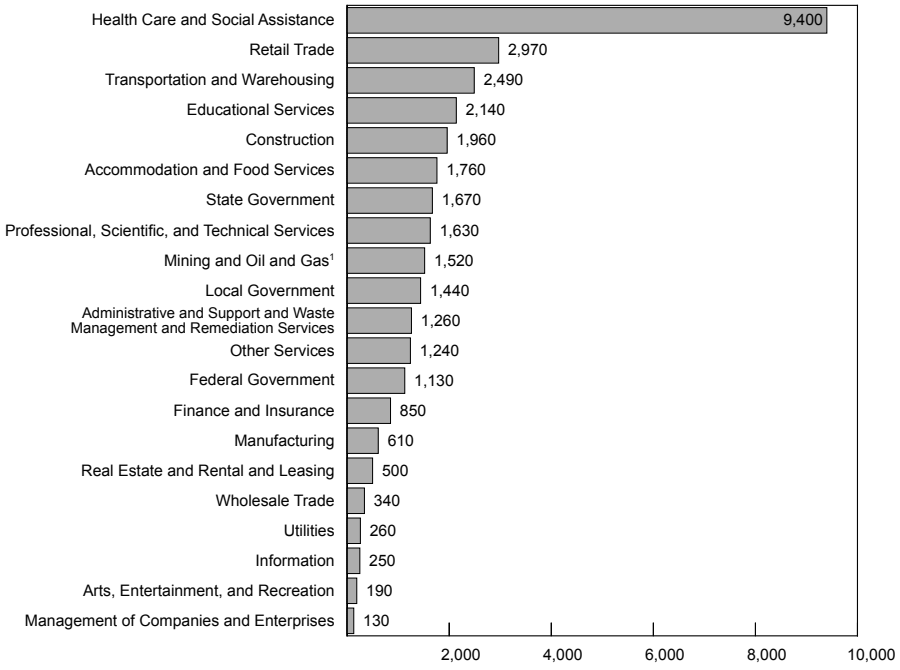
Note: Excludes self-employed workers, fishermen, domestic workers, unpaid family workers and nonprofit volunteers
[1] Industry sector numbers do not sum to total employment because of rounding.
[2] Percentage change may be inconsistent with employment change due to rounding of the employment numbers.
[3] Includes U.S. Postal Service and railroad employment
[4] Includes both public schools and the University of Alaska
[5] Includes public-sector hospital employment
[6] Excludes uniformed military, postal service, and hospital employment
[7] Excludes university, railroad, and hospital employment
[8] Excludes public school and hospital employment
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

## Oil and gas employment will grow slowly

Oil and gas is an integral part of Alaska's economy. Only about 4 percent of Alaska's total employment is in the oil and gas industry,[2] but

[2] Including support activities

## 2 Projected Changes in Employment
### By select industry sector in Alaska, 2008 to 2018




[1] Includes oil and gas extraction, mining, and support services
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

revenue generated from oil and gas royalties and taxes filters through the rest of the economy and has a huge impact on Alaska's overall employment.

The Alaska Department of Revenue projects a steady decline in oil production, but oil and gas employment is projected to grow slightly. Growth is possible because future production will likely be more labor intensive as oil companies pursue methods to get at oil that is more difficult to reach. A ramping up of exploration is also expected.[3]

### Seafood processing and packaging employment will be up and down

Seafood preparation and packaging is one of Alaska's most cyclical industries, since it mostly follows the changes in fish harvesting from season to season and year to year. Trying to pinpoint where in the cycle employment will be at the end of a specific ten-year period would require the forecaster to guess what fish populations will be like in ten years – a tall order.

[3] The employment projection does not assume the construction and operation of a natural gas pipeline.

For long-term projections, it makes more sense to focus instead on other long-term factors such as consumer demand and competition from farmed fish and other sources of wild fish.

Asian demand for seafood products is expected to remain strong and concerns about farmed and tainted fish, as well as dwindling fish populations in other states, work in favor of Alaska's campaign to promote its wild salmon.[4] Demand for fish that is rich in healthy oils (including Alaska salmon) and growing demand for convenient pre-cooked entrees are also positives.

On the other hand, worldwide farmed salmon production in 2007 was nearly double that of wild production.[5] Problems with escapement of diseased fish that threaten wild stock have caused somewhat of a backlash among consumers, but Alaska's seafood industry is likely to face continued strong competition from farmed fish.

Also, because the long-term projections do not assume any change in fish populations, there is only so much room for growth. All things considered, seafood processing is projected to grow by just 290 jobs, or 3.2 percent. (See Exhibit 1).

### Transportation and warehousing growth will be lower than in recent years

On average, transportation and warehousing employment grew by a solid 2.7 percent a year from 2002 through 2008. This level of growth is not expected to continue in the years ahead. From 2008 to 2018, transportation and warehousing employment is projected to grow by 2,490 or 10.3 percent – an average annual growth rate of about 1 percent a year. (See Exhibits 2 and 3.)

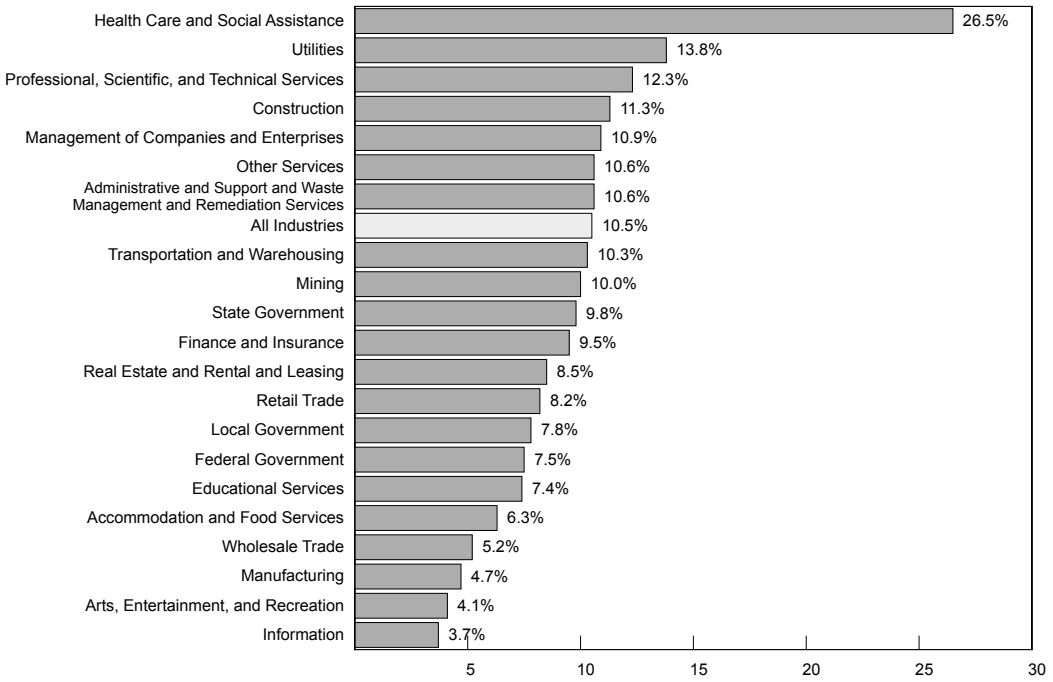
[4] In 1990, the Alaska Legislature passed a law banning fish farming in the State of Alaska and citing the risks to wild salmon involved with the industry. These risks include disease, pollution and genetic impacts, and competition from escaped fish.
[5] According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

One of the drags on growth will be the U.S. Postal Service's goal to eliminate Saturday service and downsize employment. The recent recession also figures in. Air transportation employment was hit especially hard in 2009, dropping by 4.7 percent. Despite the slowdown in the rate of growth, transportation and warehousing is expected to grow at about the same rate as overall employment.

## Education growth rate will be sub-par

The education sector as a whole is projected to add over 2,100 jobs for an increase of 7.4 percent, which is lower than the 10.5 percent growth for all industries combined. (See Exhibits 2 and 3.)

**Projected Job Growth**
**By select industry in Alaska, 2008 to 2018** **3**




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

Elementary and secondary education employment makes up about 75 percent of the education sector and is projected to add just over 1,600 jobs during the projection period.[6] Elementary and secondary education is driven almost exclusively by changes in Alaska's school-age population. Over the forecast period, the middle school age group is expected to have the highest growth rate. The high school age cohort is expected to have very little growth, and the elementary age group is expected to fall somewhere in between.

Universities and colleges may face the greatest challenge in this sector. Alaska's resident population of 18 to 24 year olds is expected to drop during the projection period. Schools may have to compensate by attracting more out-of-state enrollees and expanding continuing education programs, master's degrees, and other curricula that appeal to non-traditional age groups. An improvement in Alaska's high school graduation rates could also potentially bolster enrollment numbers.

Primarily vocational and business schools comprise the remainder of the education sector. The 18 to 24 year old group plays a part here as well, but the health of relevant industries is more important. Construction; oil and mining support services; administrative and management services; utilities; government; health care; and professional, scientific, and technical services all create demand for vocational and business school education.

## Government estimated to grow by 8.4 percent

Public-sector jobs are projected to grow modestly during the forecast period.[7] State government employment is anticipated to grow by approximately 9.8 percent, a little under the percentage change for all industries combined. Federal and local government jobs are forecasted to grow by 7.5 and 7.8 percent respectively. (See Exhibit 3.)

[6] Includes middle schools

[7] Excluding education, hospitals, railroad transportation, uniformed military, and the U.S. Postal Service

Growth in the government sector typically follows the change in Alaska's population, revenues from oil and gas production, and the health of the overall economy. Population growth will be modest, but oil and gas revenues are projected to decline. Federal stimulus dollars and matching funds for infrastructure projects may partially offset projected declines in oil and gas revenues, but this is hardly a sure thing.

## Professional, scientific and technical services will outpace overall growth rate

Professional, scientific, and technical services jobs are projected to grow by 1,630 or 12.3 percent. (See Exhibits 2 and 3.) This industry includes law firms, accounting firms, and other professional services; architectural, engineering, and surveying services; and a wide range of computer, research, and other business services. Architectural, engineering, and surveying employment should see healthy growth as a result of a rebound in construction and a period of increased mining, and oil and gas exploration. Other components of this industry will mostly follow population growth and the health of the overall economy.

## Summary

Alaska is expected to recover from the recession and grow at a modest rate for the remainder of the forecast period. Health care related industries will benefit from the rapid growth in the population of older age Alaskans. An expansion of infrastructure, resumed construction growth, promising new mines, increased mining and oil exploration, and a gradual return of tourists will help Alaska maintain positive growth in the aftermath of the recession.

## How are projections made?

Ten year industry and occupational forecasts for Alaska are created every other year by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The projections are the product of four steps:

**Step 1: Project Industry Employment**

Data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) are used to determine the number of jobs for each industry during the first year (base year) of the projection period.[1] For the purposes of the projections, certain types of public-sector employment – education, hospitals, rail transportation, and U.S. Postal Service – are combined with employment in private-sector industries.

Projections are made for each industry based on historical trends and expected changes in important economic indicators, Alaska and U.S. population projections, and other industry-specific variables. Consideration is also given to knowledge of specific projects and observations of the current economic climate.

**Step 2: Determine the occupational makeup, or "staffing pattern", of each industry**

In order to estimate base year employment for each occupation, the occupational "staffing pattern" of each industry must be determined. Most industries have a wide variety of occupations. The staffing pattern of an industry is the breakdown of each occupation's share of the industry's total employment (referred to as "staffing ratios").

Employers in Alaska report the occupations of their workers when they submit their unemployment insurance quarterly contributions report.[2] The reported occupations are the basis of Alaska's Occupational Database (ODB). An analysis of the three most recent years of ODB data are used to calculate occupational staffing ratios for each industry.

**Step 3: Calculate base year and projected occupation employment**

Each industry's estimated base year employment is multiplied by the staffing ratio for each occupation. The results are then summed by each occupation to get the base year estimate.

For the projections, staffing ratios within an industry are adjusted using "change factors." Change factors are multipliers that increase or decrease an occupation's estimated share of industry employment based on factors other than an industry's projected employment change. Some examples are changes in consumer demands, technology, or business practices.

Each industry's projected employment is then multiplied by the adjusted staffing ratio for each occupation. The results are then summed by each occupation to get the projections.

**Step 4: Estimate job openings**

Job openings for an occupation result from both job growth and replacements of workers that leave the occupation. An occupation's growth openings are equal to its positive change over the projection period. Replacement openings are estimated using a combination of BLS formulas and formulas derived from an analysis of historical ODB data.

More information on the methods and definitions can be found on the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Research and Analysis Section website (http://laborstats.alaska.gov).

[1] Estimates and projections do not include self-employed workers, private household workers, most agriculture workers and fishermen, and others who are not covered by the state's unemployment insurance program.
[2] Since the ODB does not include federal government workers, OES survey data are used to determine federal government staffing ratios.

# Alaska's 10-Year Occupational Forecast
## 2008 to 2018

By Kelsey Kost and Todd Mosher, Economists

# Health care occupations will have strongest growth

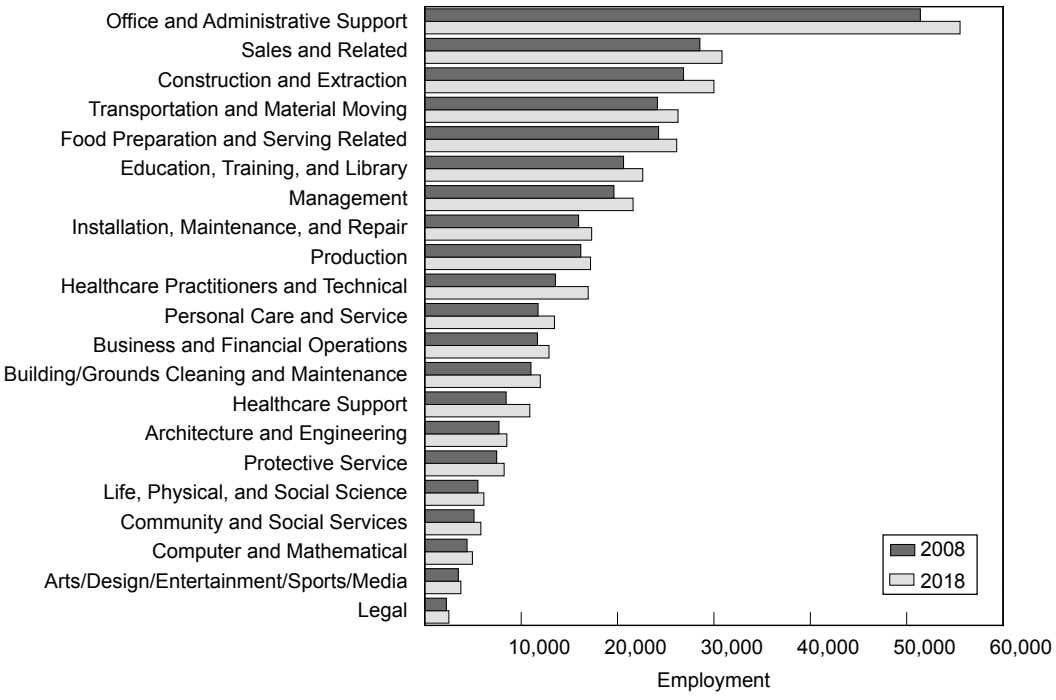
Given the recent economic climate, many workers have been less concerned about finding their dream job than about finding a job at all. However, in the longer term, Alaska's workers are likely to see opportunities in a wide range of occupations. From 2008 to 2018, Alaska is projected to add 33,670 new jobs and have about 89,000 job vacancies created by workers who leave their occupations – all together that's nearly 123,000 job openings.[1]

[1] The total forecasted openings include new jobs from positive growth and jobs from replacement openings. Replacement openings occur when a worker leaves his or her occupation to take a position in another occupation or leaves the workforce.

### An aging population will boost demand for health care occupations

Alaska's elderly population is expected to grow by at least 50 percent over the forecast period, significantly boosting the demand for health care workers. In terms of percentage growth, the two health care related occupational categories are far above any other category. The healthcare practitioners and technical occupations category is expected to increase by 3,402 jobs or 25.1 percent, and the healthcare support category is expected to grow by 2,455 jobs or 29.1 percent. (See Exhibits 1 and 2.) This adds up to 5,857 new jobs – about 17 percent of the state's total projected gains.

## 1 Projected Employment by Occupational Category
### Alaska, 2008 to 2018




Note: Occupational categories are based on the federal *Standard Occupational Classification Manual*.
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

At a more detailed level, 17 of Alaska's 20 fastest growing occupations are health care related. (See Exhibit 7.) The occupations most directly impacted by an aging population are projected to have the highest percentage growth. They include home health aides, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and personal and home care aides. (See Exhibit 7.)

Other health care occupations among the 10 fastest growing are respiratory therapists, licensed practical and vocational nurses, medical assistants, surgical technologists, registered nurses, and physician assistants.

## Individual occupations outside of health care will also do well

All of the broad occupational categories that are not related to health care are projected to have less than 15 percent growth. (See Exhibit 2.) However, within those categories, a wide range of individual occupations are projected to grow by 15 percent or more.

These fast growing occupations are led by two financial occupations and also include five computer related occupations; three mining and extraction occupations; five architectural, engineering, or surveying occupations; and three construction or maintenance occupations. (See Exhibit 7.)

Seven of these occupations have projected growth of 20 percent or higher and include the following: financial examiners, personal financial advisors, self enrichment education teachers, computer and information scientists (research), computer software engineers (systems software), network systems and data communications analysts, and mining and geological engineers (including mining safety engineers).

Personal financial advisors will benefit from a boom in the population of older Alaskans. Mining and geological engineers will benefit from expected increases in mining and oil exploration. The computer related occupations in this group will be bolstered by increasing reliance on technological solutions to industry needs. Also, employment in most computer related occupations is spread out over a wide range of industries, buffering them from potential slow growth in any particular industry.

## Most openings are from high employment occupations

Despite health care's dominant growth, it will not generate the highest number of openings. Job openings are comprised of both growth and replacement openings. Job growth openings are equal to the positive change in employment (added jobs). Replacement openings are vacancies that result when workers leave their occupations to take positions in different occupations or leave the workforce.

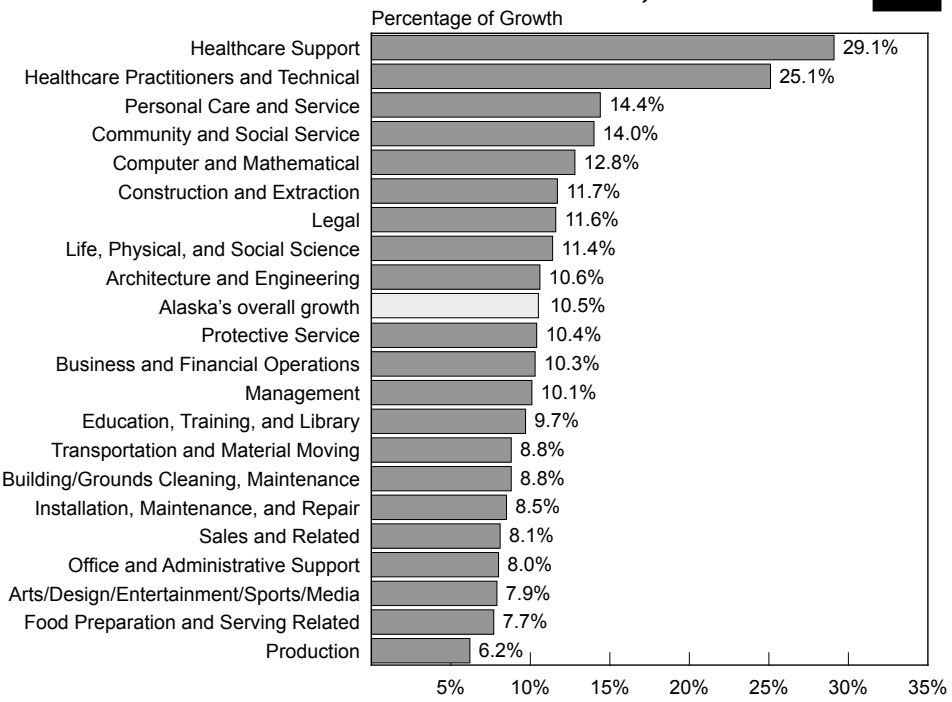
About 46 percent of Alaska's nearly 123,000 openings will come from the four top occupational categories: office and administrative support, sales and related, food preparation and serving related, and construction and extraction. (See Exhibit 3.)

## High employment, low wage occupations generate the most openings

Occupations with the highest employment and lowest average wages typically have the highest number of projected openings. In fact, over this forecast period, nine out of ten occupations with the highest projected openings fit this profile. (See Exhibit 4.) These occupations generate a high percentage of their openings from replacements. Some of these replacement openings occur when workers move on to higher paying occupations.

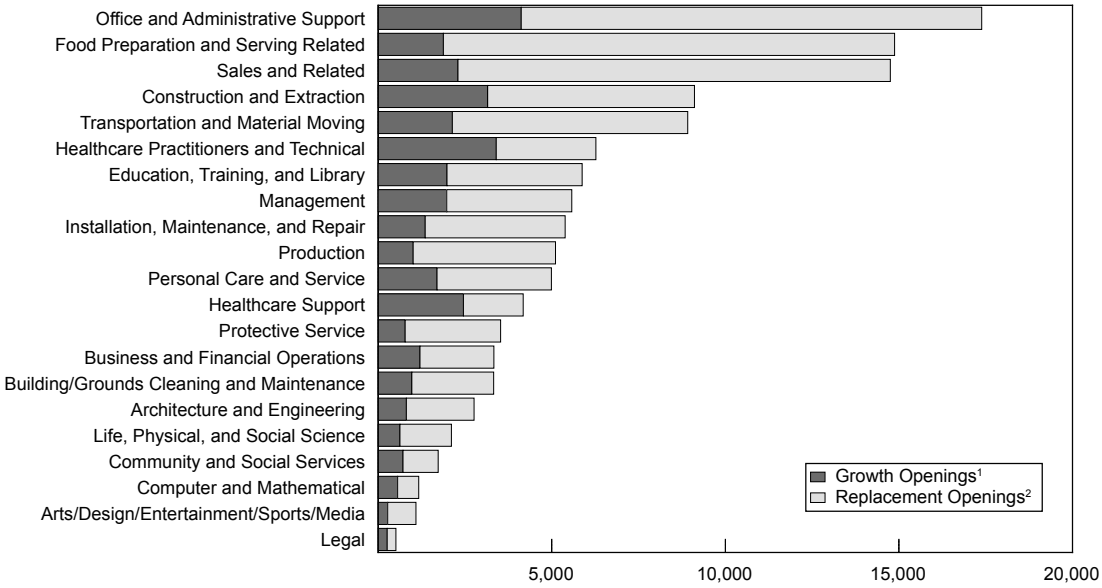
Retail salespersons; meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers; combined food prepara-

## Growth by Occupational Category 2
### Alaska, 2008 to 2018



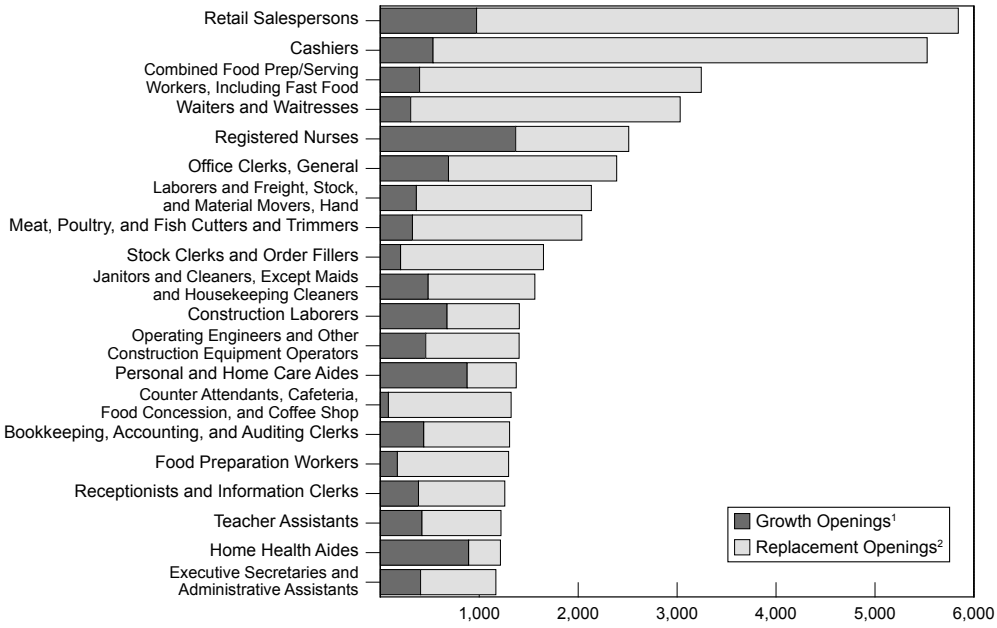

Note: Occupational categories are based on the federal *Standard Occupational Classification Manual*.
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

# 3 Job Openings by Occupational Category
## Alaska, 2008 to 2018




Note: Occupational categories are based on the federal *Standard Occupational Classification Manual*.
[1] Total growth openings are equal to the positive change in employment (new jobs).
[2] Replacement openings result from vacancies that occur when workers leave an occupation to take a job in a different occupation or leave the workforce.
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

# 4 Occupations with the Most Projected Openings
## Alaska, 2008 to 2018




Note: Occupational categories are based on the federal *Standard Occupational Classification Manual*.
[1] Total growth openings are equal to the positive change in employment (new jobs).
[2] Replacement openings result from vacancies that occur when workers leave an occupation to take a job in a different occupation or leave the workforce.
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

tion and serving workers (including fast food); and cashiers are examples of occupations that will each generate more than 80 percent of their total openings from replacement. (See Exhibit 6.)Even with the high number of openings, all of these occupations are projected to have percentage growth below Alaska's overall growth.

Although they're typically low paying, the jobs generated by these types of occupations provide important opportunities for entry-level, seasonal, and part-time workers. In contrast, occupations that have higher wages, more full-time positions, and less seasonality tend to be more stable and have a relatively high percentage of their openings from growth.

### Declining and low growth occupations aren't surprising

Fourteen occupations are projected to decline or have no growth, and some of these occupations are becoming obsolete. (See Exhibit 7.) Word processors (and typists), telephone operators, and file clerks are examples of occupations that are dying out due to changes in technology. The U.S. Postal Service's expected cost-cutting measures are likely to result in a decline in the number of mail sorters and postal clerks.

## Alaska's *Top Jobs*, 2008 to 2018

Long-term occupation projections are a vital tool for administrators of workforce development agencies, job placement and counseling professionals, job seekers, and education and training providers. But how does one determine which occupations should get their attention?

In an attempt to respond to this question, economists at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development have developed Alaska's *Top Jobs* list. (See Exhibit 8.) The list focuses on occupations that are projected to fare well over the forecast period and also pay well. Of course, there is no single way to consider every possible aspect of what makes one occupation a better prospect than another, but the *Top Jobs* list is a good place to start.

In order to make the *Top Jobs* list an occupation must meet two criteria. First, an occupation is only considered if its average wages rank in the top half of all occupations.[2] Second, the occupation must have projected growth of at least 75 jobs and percentage growth that is higher than the growth for all occupations combined, or it must be among the 50 occupations with the most projected openings.

## The *Top Jobs* list features a wide range of occupations

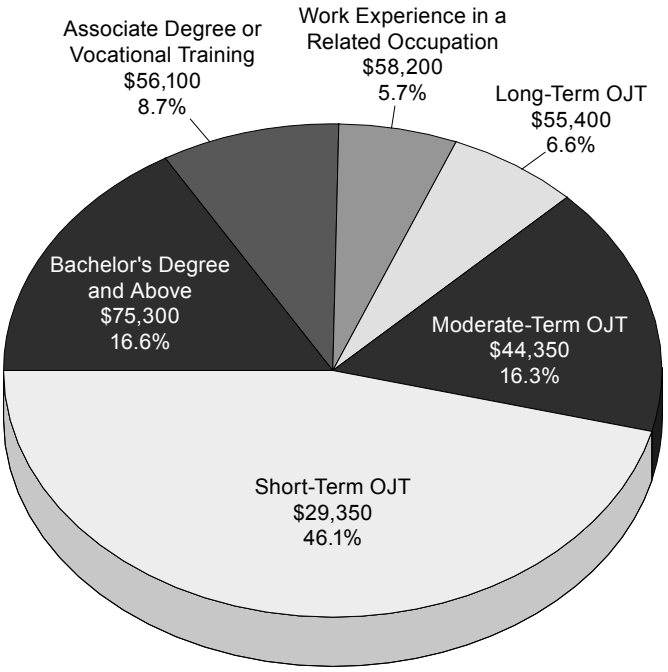
Of 465 occupations considered, only 58 occupations made the *Top Jobs* list.[3] Health care related occupations are well represented as expected; however, 80 percent of occupations that made the list were in other fields.

A large number of so called "blue-collar" occupations are on the list. Six occupations are construction related and they include carpenters, electricians, construction equipment operators, construction laborers, supervisors of construction trades workers, and plumbers.[4]

[2] Based on the May, 2009 OES wage estimates for Alaska. Wage estimates are not provided for all occupations and some are unreportable due to confidentiality issues. These occupations are not considered.
[3] Occupations with 2008 employment under 50 were not considered. Some additional occupations are excluded due to suspected underreporting or unreliable data. In all, there were 465 reportable occupations.
[4] Some occupational category names were shortened; see Exhibit 8 for full occupational category names.

## Educational and Training Levels
### Percentage of total openings, 2008 to 2018[1]

**5**



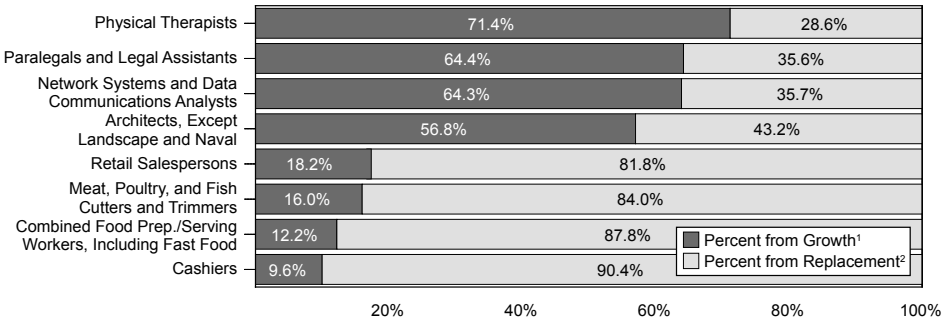

Notes: OJT stands for on-the-job-training; short-term OJT is less than a month, moderate-term OJT is 1-12 months, and long-term OJT is 12 or more months. Education levels are the minimum needed to qualify for the job. Annual wage estimates are based on an employment-weighted averages of May 2009 OES occupation wage estimates for Alaska.
[1] Includes job openings from both growth and replacement for Alaska
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

Another seven occupations are mechanics, maintenance, and repair related. They include mobile heavy equipment mechanics; automotive service technicians and mechanics; aircraft mechanics and service technicians; bus and truck mechanics and diesel engine specialists; roustabouts; supervisors of mechanics, installers, and repairers; and general maintenance and repair workers.[5]

There are 11 health care related occupations on the list. Remarkably, only 7 of the 17 health care occupations that were among the fastest growing occupations made the *Top Jobs* list. (See Exhibits 7 and 8.) Some of those that missed the list, such as pharmacy technicians and home health aides, did not earn high enough average wages to make the list. Others, such as respiratory therapists and surgical technologists, didn't have enough employment to generate the required openings.

[5] See footnote 4

# 6 Openings from Growth and Replacements
## By selected occupations - Alaska 2008 to 2018




Note: Occupations are based on the federal *Standard Occupation Classification Manual.*
[1] Total growth openings are equal to the positive change in employment (new jobs).
[2] Replacement openings result from vacancies that occur when workers leave an occupation to take a job in a different occupation or leave the workforce.
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

## Most *Top Jobs* requiring a bachelor's degree (or higher) pay top dollar

Twenty-three occupations on the *Top Jobs* list require a bachelor's degree (or higher), and all but one of these occupations earn wages in the highest quartile.[6] In contrast, 12 occupations on the list require an associate degree or vocational training and only four of those jobs earn wages in the highest quartile. Eight of the 12 jobs at this education level were health care related or mechanic's occupations.

[6] Occupations in the top wage quartile are ranked in the top 25 percent of all occupations and paid $62,300 or more annually. Occupations in the second highest quartile paid between $40,570 and $62,330 annually.

# 7 Fastest and Slowest Growing Occupations and Annual Wages
## Occupational Categories - Alaska 2008 to 2018

**Fastest Growing Occupations**

| | Percent |
|---|---|
| Home Health Aides | 47.3% |
| Pharmacists | 37.1% |
| Pharmacy Technicians | 35.7% |
| Personal and Home Care Aides | 35.5% |
| Respiratory Therapists | 33.6% |
| Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 29.8% |
| Medical Assistants | 29.2% |
| Surgical Technologists | 28.0% |
| Registered Nurses | 27.2% |
| Physician Assistants | 27.0% |
| Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics | 26.4% |
| Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians | 25.0% |
| Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technologists | 25.0% |
| Financial Examiners | 25.0% |
| Physical Therapists | 24.9% |
| Opticians, Dispensing | 24.6% |
| Personal Financial Advisors | 24.2% |
| Self Enrichment Education Teachers | 24.0% |
| Physicians and Surgeons, Including Psychiatrists | 23.9% |
| Medical Records and Health Information Technicians | 23.8% |

Note: The list considers occupations with at least 50 workers. Residual occupations ending with "All Other" and a small number of occupations with incomplete or unreliable data are excluded.
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

**Fastest Growing Occupations, Excluding Health Care Related**[1]

| | Percent |
|---|---|
| Financial Examiners | 25.0% |
| Personal Financial Advisors | 24.2% |
| Self Enrichment Education Teachers | 24.0% |
| Computer and Information Scientists, Research | 20.7% |
| Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software | 20.7% |
| Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts | 20.4% |
| Mining and Geological Engineers, Including Mining Safety Engineers | 20.0% |
| Computer Software Engineers, Applications | 19.6% |
| Cartographers and Photogrammetrists | 18.3% |
| Earth Drillers, Except Oil and Gas | 17.6% |
| Insulation Workers, Mechanical | 17.0% |
| Environmental Science and Protection Technicians, Including Health | 16.4% |
| Computer Systems Analysts | 16.1% |
| Environmental Engineering Technicians | 16.1% |
| Helpers -- Pipelayers, Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters | 15.9% |
| Technical Writers | 15.8% |
| Interpreters and Translators | 15.4% |
| Architects, Except Landscape and Naval | 15.3% |
| Millwrights | 15.2% |
| Police, Fire, and Ambulance Dispatchers | 15.2% |
| Atmospheric and Space Scientists | 15.1% |
| Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 15.0% |
| Social and Human Service Assistants | 15.0% |
| Environmental Engineers | 15.0% |
| Surveying and Mapping Technicians | 15.0% |

[1] Excludes any occupation primarily related to health care, regardless of broad occupational category

## A bachelor's degree isn't the only path to high wages

The pie chart in this article might lead readers to believe that four years of college is the only way to get ahead. (See Exhibit 5.) This may be the route to most high paying occupations, but the *Top Jobs* list makes it evident that not all well-paying jobs require a bachelor's degree. Skilled trade workers such as electricians and plumbers can advance from apprenticeships and earn wages in the top quartile. Supervisors of construction workers and mechanics also have wages in the top quartile.[7] Workers in these occupations and supervisors of other blue-collar occupations usually earn promotions from long-term, on-the-job-training or significant work experience in a related occupation.

## Occupations don't have to be on the list to be top jobs

When creating a list of this type, there is a risk of implying that occupations omitted from the list are somehow inferior, but this isn't necessarily the case. Cartographers, atmospheric scientists, and technical writers are some examples of well-paying occupations that are projected to grow by at least 15 percent and have more than 50 openings. It doesn't sound like that many openings, but some high paying occupations with moderate employment can provide rewarding opportunities for those who pursue them. In short, the *Top Jobs* list is only one of many possible tools for evaluating the most promising occupations.

[7] See footnote 4

# Fastest and Slowest Growing Occupations and Annual Wages 7
## Occupational Categories - Alaska 2008 to 2018 (Continued)

**Declining and Slowest Growing Occupations**

| | Percent |
|---|---|
| File Clerks | -9.9% |
| Telephone Operators | -7.8% |
| Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators | -7.5% |
| Computer Operators | -6.6% |
| Word Processors and Typists | -4.4% |
| Postal Service Clerks | -2.7% |
| Sewing Machine Operators | -2.4% |
| Door-To-Door Sales Workers, News and Street Vendors, and Related Workers | -1.7% |
| Legislators | 0.0% |
| Floral Designers | 0.0% |
| Reporters and Correspondents | 0.0% |
| Radio and Television Announcers | 0.0% |
| Meter Readers, Utilities | 0.0% |
| Postal Service Mail Carriers | 0.0% |
| Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service | 0.6% |
| Gaming and Sports Book Writers and Runners | 1.2% |
| Telemarketers | 1.3% |
| Travel Agents | 1.4% |
| Editors | 1.6% |
| Data Entry Keyers | 1.8% |

**Wages for the Occupational Categories**

| Category | Average Annual Wages[1] |
|---|---|
| Architecture and Engineering | $84,900 |
| Arts/Design/Entertainment/Sports/Media | $42,600 |
| Building/Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance | $29,500 |
| Business and Financial Operations | $64,000 |
| Community and Social Services | $45,600 |
| Computer and Mathematical | $66,700 |
| Construction and Extraction | $57,900 |
| Education, Training, and Library | $49,800 |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related | $24,000 |
| Healthcare Practitioners and Technical | $76,100 |
| Healthcare Support | $35,000 |
| Installation, Maintenance, and Repair | $53,600 |
| Legal | $80,000 |
| Life, Physical, and Social Science | $62,600 |
| Management | $85,700 |
| Office and Administrative Support | $38,000 |
| Personal Care and Service | $28,300 |
| Production | $35,200 |
| Protective Service | $49,700 |
| Sales and Related | $30,500 |
| Transportation and Material Moving | $44,600 |

[1] Wages are based on May 2009 OES occupation wage estimates for Alaska weighted by base year (2008) employment.

# 8 Alaska's Top Jobs 2008 to 2018[1]

| | Employment | | | Openings 2008-2018 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2008 | 2018 | Percent Change | Growth | Replace-ment | Total | Wage Quartile[2] |
| **Bachelor's degree or above** | | | | | | | |
| Pharmacists** | 361 | 495 | 37.1% | 134 | 95 | 229 | $$$$ |
| Physician Assistants* | 378 | 480 | 27.0% | 102 | 75 | 177 | $$$$ |
| Physical Therapists* | 338 | 422 | 24.9% | 84 | 34 | 118 | $$$$ |
| Physicians and Surgeons, Including Psychiatrists** | 957 | 1,186 | 23.9% | 229 | 143 | 372 | $$$$ |
| Medical and Health Services Managers** | 1,112 | 1,294 | 16.4% | 182 | 217 | 399 | $$$$ |
| Computer Systems Analysts* | 465 | 540 | 16.1% | 75 | 57 | 132 | $$$$ |
| Surveyors | 464 | 532 | 14.7% | 68 | 198 | 266 | $$$$ |
| Civil Engineers* | 700 | 800 | 14.3% | 100 | 114 | 214 | $$$$ |
| Environmental Scientists and Specialists, Including Health* | 595 | 677 | 13.8% | 82 | 107 | 189 | $$$$ |
| Administrative Services Managers** | 1,604 | 1,806 | 12.6% | 202 | 313 | 515 | $$$$ |
| Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education** | 676 | 760 | 12.4% | 84 | 148 | 232 | $$$$ |
| Accountants and Auditors** | 1,860 | 2,085 | 12.1% | 225 | 356 | 581 | $$$$ |
| Financial Managers** | 1,199 | 1,338 | 11.6% | 139 | 166 | 305 | $$$$ |
| Lawyers** | 1,134 | 1,265 | 11.6% | 131 | 150 | 281 | $$$$ |
| Construction Managers** | 946 | 1,053 | 11.3% | 107 | 168 | 275 | $$$$ |
| Chief Executives** | 1,640 | 1,822 | 11.1% | 182 | 308 | 490 | $$$$ |
| Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists | 635 | 705 | 11.0% | 70 | 213 | 283 | $$$ |
| Kindergarten and Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education**[3] | 2,962 | 3,280 | 10.7% | 318 | 466 | 784 | $$$$ |
| Petroleum Engineers | 482 | 532 | 10.4% | 50 | 172 | 222 | $$$$ |
| Postsecondary Teachers | 3,135 | 3,442 | 9.8% | 307 | 745 | 1,052 | $$$$ |
| General and Operations Managers | 3,968 | 4,314 | 8.7% | 346 | 715 | 1,061 | $$$$ |
| Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers | 1,358 | 1,474 | 8.5% | 116 | 356 | 472 | $$$$ |
| Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Vocational Education | 2,387 | 2,447 | 2.5% | 60 | 648 | 708 | $$$$ |
| **Associate degree or vocational training** | | | | | | | |
| Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses** | 641 | 832 | 29.8% | 191 | 160 | 351 | $$$ |
| Registered Nurses** | 5,032 | 6,400 | 27.2% | 1,368 | 1,143 | 2,511 | $$$$ |
| Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics* | 303 | 383 | 26.4% | 80 | 50 | 130 | $$$ |
| Radiologic Technologists and Technicians* | 431 | 530 | 23.0% | 99 | 90 | 189 | $$$ |
| Dental Hygienists* | 489 | 575 | 17.6% | 86 | 47 | 133 | $$$$ |
| Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers** | 768 | 870 | 13.3% | 102 | 237 | 339 | $$$ |
| Computer Support Specialists** | 1,124 | 1,260 | 12.1% | 136 | 132 | 268 | $$$ |
| Geological and Petroleum Technicians | 616 | 683 | 10.9% | 67 | 157 | 224 | $$$$ |
| Commercial Pilots | 1,045 | 1,140 | 9.1% | 95 | 278 | 373 | $$$$ |
| Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists | 718 | 783 | 9.1% | 65 | 197 | 262 | $$$ |
| Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics | 1,680 | 1,830 | 8.9% | 150 | 473 | 623 | $$$ |
| Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians | 1,339 | 1,430 | 6.8% | 91 | 323 | 414 | $$$ |
| **Work experience in a related occupation** | | | | | | | |
| Office and Administrative Support Workers, Supervisors/First Line Managers** | 1,994 | 2,230 | 11.8% | 236 | 432 | 668 | $$$ |
| First Line Supervisors/Managers of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers** | 1,130 | 1,250 | 10.6% | 120 | 177 | 297 | $$$$ |
| Executive Secretaries and Administrative Assistants | 3,953 | 4,360 | 10.3% | 407 | 761 | 1,168 | $$$ |
| Captains, Mates, and Pilots of Water Vessels | 582 | 631 | 8.4% | 49 | 179 | 228 | $$$ |
| Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers, Supervisors/First Line Managers | 758 | 818 | 7.9% | 60 | 189 | 249 | $$$$ |
| Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products | 968 | 1,035 | 6.9% | 67 | 267 | 334 | $$$ |
| **Long–term on–the–job training** | | | | | | | |
| Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines** | 806 | 912 | 13.2% | 106 | 177 | 283 | $$$ |
| Water and Liquid Waste Treatment Plant and System Operators | 548 | 615 | 12.2% | 67 | 208 | 275 | $$$ |
| Fire Fighters** | 856 | 952 | 11.2% | 96 | 248 | 344 | $$$ |
| Carpenters** | 3,239 | 3,600 | 11.1% | 361 | 519 | 880 | $$$ |
| Electricians** | 2,372 | 2,635 | 11.1% | 263 | 488 | 751 | $$$$ |
| Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers** | 1,254 | 1,390 | 10.8% | 136 | 341 | 477 | $$$ |
| Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters** | 1,766 | 1,955 | 10.7% | 189 | 430 | 619 | $$$$ |
| Compliance Officers, Except Agriculture, Construction, Health and Safety, and Transportation | 1,048 | 1,132 | 8.0% | 84 | 241 | 325 | $$$ |
| **Moderate–term on–the–job training** | | | | | | | |
| Dental Assistants** | 959 | 1,130 | 17.8% | 171 | 299 | 470 | $$$ |
| Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators** | 3,421 | 3,880 | 13.4% | 459 | 944 | 1,403 | $$$ |
| Construction Laborers** | 5,245 | 5,920 | 12.9% | 675 | 730 | 1,405 | $$$ |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer** | 2534 | 2828 | 11.6% | 294 | 412 | 706 | $$$ |
| Correctional Officers and Jailers** | 906 | 1,010 | 11.5% | 104 | 202 | 306 | $$$ |
| Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 629 | 690 | 9.7% | 61 | 197 | 258 | $$$ |
| Eligibility Interviewers, Government Programs | 732 | 800 | 9.3% | 68 | 202 | 270 | $$$ |
| Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 1,605 | 1,750 | 9.0% | 145 | 457 | 602 | $$$ |
| Maintenance and Repair Workers, General | 3,431 | 3,720 | 8.4% | 289 | 655 | 944 | $$$ |

[1] To rank as a "Top Job", the occupation must: 1) rank in the top two wage quartiles; AND 2) have projected growth of at least 75 jobs and greater percentage growth than all occupations combined, OR be among one the 50 occupations with the most projected openings (of those with wages in the top two quartiles).
[2] Earnings: $$$ = $19.50 - $29.98 hourly ($40,570 - $62,330 annually), $$$$ = More than $29.98 hourly ($62,330 annually). Based on May 2009 OES estimates for Alaska.
[3] Combines two standard occupations: Kindergarten Teachers (25-2012) and Elementary School Teachers (25-2021)

* Denotes occupations projected to grow by at least 75 jobs with percentage growth greater than growth for all occupations combined
** Denotes occupations projected to grow by at least 75 jobs with percentage growth greater than growth for all occupations; and among the top 50 occupations (in the top two wage quartiles) projected to have the most job openings throughout the forecast period
*Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section*

# The Haines Borough

By Joy Wilkinson, Liz Baron
and Rob Krieger
Economists

## A unique location

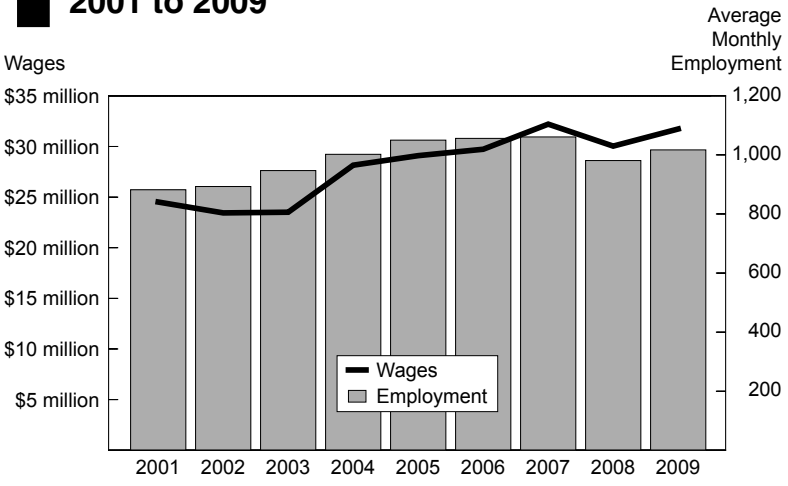
The Haines Borough is at the northern end of Alaska's Panhandle nestled between the Chilkoot and Chilkat Rivers. The borough's boundaries extend from the tip of the Chilkat Peninsula to the border that separates the United States and Canada – it's a 40 mile drive from Haines to the border. The borough encompasses nearly 2,620 square miles of glaciers, forested valleys, snow-capped mountains, and numerous streams and rivers. Lynn Canal – North America's longest glacial fjord – begins at the town of Haines and extends 90 miles south.

### Historic Haines

The Tlingit Indians were the first people who called the Chilkat Valley home. The Ganaxtedih Ravens and the Deklawedih Eagles of Klukwan controlled a prosperous trade route between the Tlingit and Athabascan Indians.[1] The trade route, which led over the Chilkat Pass, was called the "grease trail" and named after the trade in candlefish oil. It would later become known by prospectors as the Dalton Trail.

[1] According to the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center website: www.sheldonmuseum.org/daltontrail.htm

**1 Employment and Wages in Haines**
**2001 to 2009**




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

The gold rushes of the 1890s lured thousands of prospectors up the Inside Passage, through Lynn Canal, and over the mountain passes to mining camps in the Yukon. By the 1890s, Haines had become an important supply depot for prospectors. A local businessman named Jack Dalton realized the importance of the Tlingit's trade route and developed it into a toll road. In 1899, with permission of the U.S. government, Dalton began charging fees for prospectors and suppliers to travel the road from Haines to waterways connecting to the Yukon River. From there, prospectors would travel downriver by raft to Dawson City. The Dalton Trail was just one of several routes used by prospectors during the Klondike gold rush.

Alaska's strategic importance during World War II prompted the construction of the ALCAN (Alaskan and Canadian) Highway in 1942. The new highway connected interior-Alaska with the lower 48 states and Canada. The Haines Highway was completed in 1943. It followed the same route as the Dalton Trail and linked Haines' deep-water ports with the ALCAN Highway. In 1948, two Haines residents established a ferry service to Skagway and Tee Harbor (18 miles north of Juneau). The ferry service was purchased by the Territory of Alaska in 1951 and would later become the Alaska Marine Highway System.

### Haines is a popular travel destination

Today, Haines continues to attract Alaska residents and tourists. Haines offers year-round road access to Canada and Anchorage via the high-

# 2 Population Estimates
## Haines Borough, 2009

| | Haines Borough | | | | | Alaska | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | Total | Male | Percent Male | Female | Percent Female | Total | Male | Percent Male | Female | Percent Female |
| 0-4 | 110 | 54 | 49.1 | 56 | 50.9 | 57,899 | 30,146 | 52.1 | 27,753 | 47.9 |
| 5-9 | 117 | 59 | 50.4 | 58 | 49.6 | 55,674 | 29,014 | 52.1 | 26,660 | 47.9 |
| 10-14 | 141 | 77 | 54.6 | 64 | 45.4 | 52,991 | 26,986 | 50.9 | 26,005 | 49.1 |
| 15-19 | 137 | 71 | 51.8 | 66 | 48.2 | 54,941 | 28,124 | 51.2 | 26,817 | 48.8 |
| 20-24 | 78 | 34 | 43.6 | 44 | 56.4 | 46,487 | 23,158 | 49.8 | 23,329 | 50.2 |
| 25-29 | 92 | 42 | 45.7 | 50 | 54.3 | 45,324 | 22,937 | 50.6 | 22,387 | 49.4 |
| 30-34 | 130 | 73 | 56.2 | 57 | 43.8 | 46,859 | 24,244 | 51.7 | 22,615 | 48.3 |
| 35-39 | 135 | 70 | 51.9 | 65 | 48.1 | 47,260 | 24,001 | 50.8 | 23,259 | 49.2 |
| 40-44 | 144 | 76 | 52.8 | 68 | 47.2 | 47,053 | 23,794 | 50.6 | 23,259 | 49.4 |
| 45-49 | 210 | 110 | 52.4 | 100 | 47.6 | 53,789 | 27,527 | 51.2 | 26,262 | 48.8 |
| 50-54 | 234 | 123 | 52.6 | 111 | 47.4 | 53,133 | 27,086 | 51.0 | 26,047 | 49.0 |
| 55-59 | 228 | 118 | 51.8 | 110 | 48.2 | 45,804 | 23,732 | 51.8 | 22,072 | 48.2 |
| 60-64 | 205 | 114 | 55.6 | 91 | 44.4 | 32,837 | 17,198 | 52.4 | 15,639 | 47.6 |
| 65-69 | 116 | 58 | 50.0 | 58 | 50.0 | 20,556 | 10,641 | 51.8 | 9,915 | 48.2 |
| 70-74 | 71 | 37 | 52.1 | 34 | 47.9 | 12,525 | 6,250 | 49.9 | 6,275 | 50.1 |
| 75-79 | 65 | 26 | 40.0 | 39 | 60.0 | 8,423 | 3,923 | 46.6 | 4,500 | 53.4 |
| 80-84 | 37 | 21 | 56.8 | 16 | 43.2 | 5,746 | 2,465 | 42.9 | 3,281 | 57.1 |
| 85-90 | 29 | 11 | 37.9 | 18 | 62.1 | 3,280 | 1,358 | 41.4 | 1,922 | 58.6 |
| 90+ | 7 | - | - | 7 | 100.0 | 1,733 | 637 | 36.8 | 1,096 | 63.2 |
| 16+ | 1,889 | 966 | 51.1 | 923 | 48.9 | 514,804 | 261,532 | 50.8 | 253,272 | 49.2 |
| 18+ | 1,822 | 934 | 51.3 | 888 | 48.7 | 492,542 | 250,053 | 50.8 | 242,489 | 49.2 |
| 65+ | 325 | 153 | 47.1 | 172 | 52.9 | 52,263 | 25,274 | 48.4 | 26,989 | 51.6 |
| Median | 46.4 | 46.4 | | 46.4 | | 33.5 | 33.4 | | 33.7 | |
| Total | 2,286 | 1,174 | 51.4 | 1,112 | 48.6 | 692,314 | 353,221 | 51.0 | 339,093 | 49.0 |

Note: No adjustments have been made here for Census Bureau corrections to the 2000 Census.
*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit*

way, and the Alaska Marine Highway connects Haines with the rest of Southeast Alaska. The Haines Borough Chamber of Commerce's annual events calendar reveals a host of activities that cater to in-state and out-of-state visitors.[2]

January features the Alcan 200, an annual snow machine race from the Canadian Border to Dezadeash Lake (in the Yukon Territory) and back. Top riders travel at speeds faster than 100 miles per hour along a 160 mile race course.

Those who prefer pedal power can attend the Kluane Chilkat International Bike Relay in June. This 148 mile bike race from Haines Junction to Haines is popular among Juneau and Whitehorse residents but also attracts riders from other places.[3]

The month of May offers the Great Alaska Craft Beer and Homebrew Festival – a three-day event that draws beer lovers and home brewers from around Alaska to the Haines Fairgrounds. This beer festival is followed in July by the Southeast Alaska State Fair, a four day event that features live music, food, arts and crafts, farm animals, and amusement rides.

In November, the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival attracts visitors from around the globe. They come to observe an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 bald eagles that gather along the Chilkat River to feed on a late run of spawning salmon. It's the largest annual gathering of bald eagles in the world.

## The people and the economy

Over the past ten years, the Haines Borough has maintained relatively steady employment. Total wage and salary employment grew modestly from 882 jobs in 2001 to a high of 1,061 in 2007. Employment declined slightly in 2008 and 2009 with subsequent declines in total wages as well. (See Exhibit 1.)

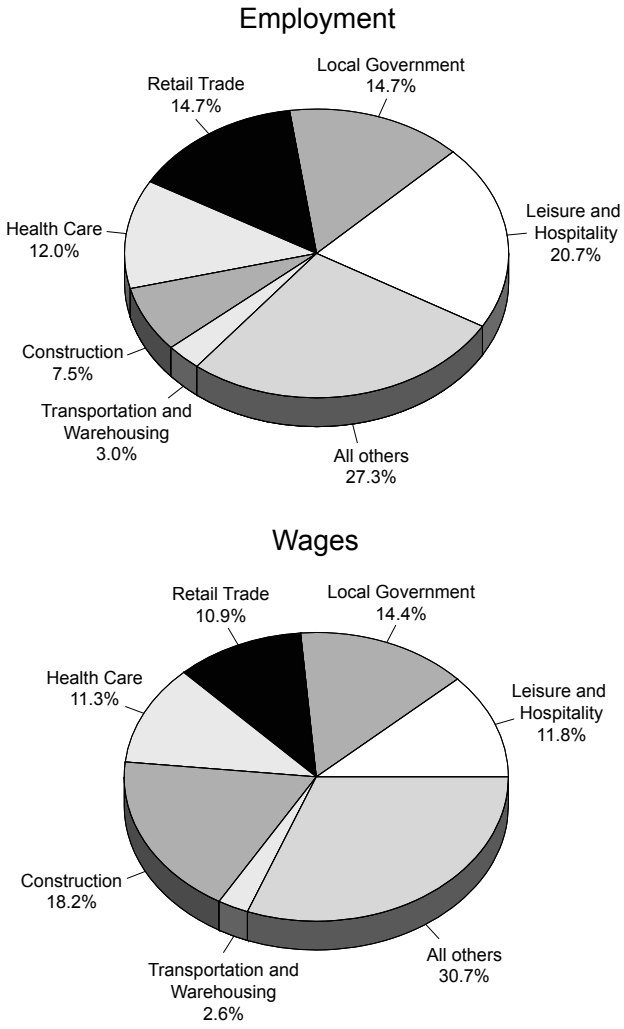
Haines is a small community with an estimated 2009 population of 2,286 people. The area has an older population compared to the rest of Alaska. Haines Borough had an estimated median age of 46.4 compared to the statewide median age of 33.5 years. In terms of the percentage of males and females, the borough trends similar to the state as a whole with 51.4 percent male and 48.6 percent female compared to 51 percent male and 49 percent female statewide. (See Exhibit 2.)

## The top industries in Haines

Though relatively small, the Haines Borough has a diverse economy with a mix of industries.

[2] See www.haineschamber.org for a complete list of events.
[3] Whitehorse and Haines Junction are both located in the Yukon, which is one of Canada's territories

## Employment and Wages by Industry 3
### Haines Borough, 2009




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

Leisure and hospitality, local government, retail trade, and health care are the borough's dominant industries which provide more than 62 percent of the total wage and salary employment. Haines is a popular tourist destination, and the leisure and hospitality industry provides the largest number of jobs in the borough. Leisure and hospitality accounted for 20.7 percent of total wage and salary employment and 11.8 percent of total wages during 2009.[4]

The local government and retail trade sectors are tied at second in terms of the number of jobs provided. A majority of local government employees work for the Haines School District or city government; local government represented 14.7 percent of total wage and salary employment in 2009. Retail trade has likely seen some benefits from tourism growth. The borough's retail trade employment has gradually increased over the past several years. Retail trade provided 14.7 percent of total wage and salary employment in 2009. (See Exhibit 3.)

Health care is another important and growing industry in Haines. One possible reason for growth in this industry is the older population. As the population of the borough continues to age, demand for health care services is likely to increase, thus fueling growth in the industry.

Seafood processing provides significant employment mostly during July, August, and September. Commercial fishing is also an important contributor to the borough's economy. In 2009, over 80 residents with commercial permits made at least one landing, earning an estimated $5.1 million with a total of over 6.1 million pounds landed.[5]

Construction provides a small segment of the borough's overall employment but accounts for a large percentage of total wages. The borough's construction industry accounted for 18.2 percent of total wages – more than any other industry. This is significant considering that construction represented only 7.5 percent of total employment in 2009.

### Top employers in Haines

The largest single employer in the Haines Borough is Ocean Beauty Seafoods. (See Exhibit 4.) Although not the largest industry, seafood processing contributes a significant number of jobs. The tourism industry has more jobs than seafood, but they are distributed among several employers.

Haines School District and the borough government are the second and third largest employers respectively. Southeast Regional Health Consor-

[4] Employment and salary data are based on the number of jobs in the Haines Borough for which employers pay workers wages or salaries. Business owners, self-employed persons, fishermen, unpaid volunteers or family workers, and private household workers are not counted. There is no distinction made between full and part-time employment.

[5] See this website for Haines fisheries data: www.cfec.state.ak.us/gpbycen/2009/100186.htm

## 4 Top 10 Employers
### Haines Borough, 2009

| Rank | | Industry | Average Monthly Employment in 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ocean Beauty Seafoods LLC | Seafood processing | 50 to 99 |
| 2 | Haines Borough School District | Local government | 50 to 99 |
| 3 | Haines Borough | Local government | 50 to 99 |
| 4 | Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium | Health Care | 50 to 99 |
| 5 | Southeast Road Builders Inc. | Construction | 50 to 99 |
| 6 | State of Alaska | State government | 20 to 49 |
| 7 | AK Mountain Guides & Climbing | Amusement and Recreation | 20 to 49 |
| 8 | Chilkat Guides Ltd. | Amusement and Recreation | 20 to 49 |
| 9 | Cornerstone Home Health Inc. | Health Care | 20 to 49 |
| 10 | Alaska Business Growth Corporation | Supermarket and Other grocery stores | 20 to 49 |

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

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

tium is fourth largest and the major employer in health care, providing between 50 and 100 year-round jobs in 2009.

Tourism is the largest industry in the borough, supporting 20.7 percent of all employment during 2009. Just like seafood processing, most of the jobs in tourism are seasonal. Two local tour companies, Alaska Mountain Guides and Climbing, and Chilkat Tours are the seventh and eighth largest employers.

## Haines is a crossroads town and visitor destination

Although it's a relatively small town, Haines has developed its economic niche with a variety of jobs and industries. Haines has always been a crossroads that connects Southeast waterways with Interior Alaska and Canada. In the early days, Tlingit Indians controlled nearby trade routes leading inland. In the 1890s miners and prospectors stampeded through Haines during the gold rush. In recent times, Haines has transformed itself into a destination for Alaskans and visitors alike. Local companies offer whitewater rafting, kayaking, mountain climbing, extreme skiing, sport fishing, and other tours. Annual events like the Southeast Alaska State Fair, Great Alaska Craft Beer and Homebrew Festival, and the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival keep locals and tourists coming back year after year. With the Alaska Highway to the north, the Alaska Marine Highway to the south, and thousands of acres of wilderness in all directions, Haines is likely to remain an attractive destination for many years to come.

By Neal Fried,
Economist

# Unemployment rate at 7.7 percent in July

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for July was 7.7 percent, a decline of 0.2 percent. June's preliminary unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.9 percent. The comparable national rate was 9.5 percent. The unemployment rate for Alaska is 0.4 percent lower than last year at this time, but the U.S. rate is about the same – it was 9.4 percent one year ago. Alaska's unemployment rate continues to trend downward from its high of 8.6 percent in December of last year and has been lower than the nation's rate for 21 consecutive months.

## A mixed story for unemployment claims

The number of weeks claimed for regular unemployment insurance (UI) benefits fell in July and was 5 percent below year ago levels. There were 55,639 weeks claimed in July 2010 compared to 58,504 weeks claimed in July 2009.

Weekly fillings for regular UI benefits decreased, but weeks claimed for Alaska's various unemployment extension programs were running 90 percent higher than one year ago. During the month of July 2010, there were 39,190 weeks claimed for extended benefits, compared to 20,574 weeks claimed for July 2009.

Extended benefits were approved by the U.S. Congress as a result of the national recession, and the increase in filings is a reminder that the broader job market around the country and in Alaska remains competitive.

## Jobless rates fall around the state

The not seasonally adjusted jobless rates fell in every region in the state in July – a predictable occurrence for this time of the year. During six of the last ten years, Alaska's employment has peaked in July. Construction, seafood processing, and visitor industry related jobs reach their peak or near peak level of activity in July.

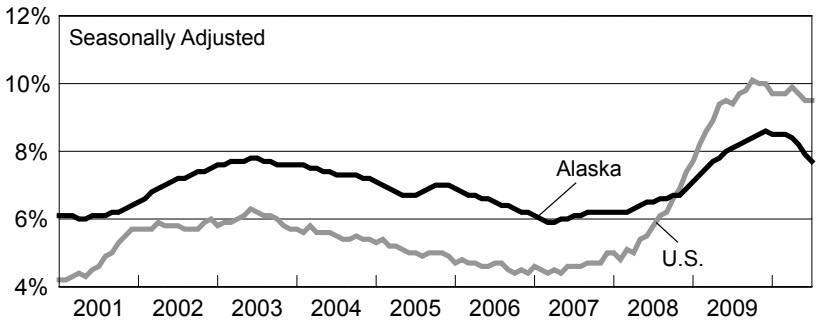
As in June, the lowest rates were recorded in the Skagway Municipality and Bristol Bay Borough. July's unemployment rates were similar to year ago levels for most areas of the state. The Wade Hampton and Nome census areas had the highest jobless rates. Six areas in the state had double-digit unemployment rates in July.

## Total earnings fall a bit

For the first time during the last decade, total earnings fell in Alaska. Total earnings in the first quarter of 2010 added up to $3.5 billion, a decline of $29 million or about 1 percent from the first quarter of 2009. This drop in earnings is not a big surprise given that year-to-year employment growth was flat.

Industries with above average earnings like oil, transportation, and construction lost more employment than the rest of the economy and had a disproportionate effect on the earnings picture. It is still too early tell if this trend will continue during the rest of 2010.

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




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

# 3 Statewide Employment
## Nonfarm wage and salary

| Alaska | Preliminary 7/10 | Revised 6/10 | Revised 7/09 | Year-Over-Year Change 7/09 | 90% Confidence Interval | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary**[1] | 351,300 | 344,100 | 343,700 | 7,600 | 217 | 14,983 |
| Goods-Producing[2] | 63,800 | 54,500 | 57,900 | 5,900 | 3,016 | 8,784 |
| Service-Providing[3] | 287,500 | 289,600 | 285,800 | 1,700 | – | – |
| **Mining and Logging** | 17,700 | 17,500 | 15,300 | 2,400 | 1,607 | 3,193 |
| Mining | 17,300 | 17,100 | 15,000 | 2,300 | – | – |
| Oil and Gas | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,700 | -700 | – | – |
| **Construction** | 19,900 | 19,000 | 19,500 | 400 | -2,183 | 2,983 |
| **Manufacturing** | 26,200 | 18,000 | 23,100 | 3,100 | 2,106 | 4,094 |
| Seafood Processing | 19,300 | 11,900 | 19,100 | 200 | – | – |
| **Trade, Transportation, Utilities** | 67,900 | 67,300 | 67,600 | 300 | -2,072 | 2,672 |
| Wholesale Trade | 6,900 | 6,700 | 6,600 | 300 | -256 | 856 |
| Retail Trade | 38,300 | 37,900 | 37,300 | 1,000 | -1,028 | 3,028 |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 7,000 | 6,700 | 6,700 | 300 | – | – |
| General Merchandise Stores | 10,400 | 10,000 | 9,900 | 500 | – | – |
| Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities | 22,700 | 22,700 | 23,700 | -1,000 | -2,038 | 38 |
| Air Transportation | 5,700 | 5,600 | 6,500 | -800 | – | – |
| Truck Transportation | 3,100 | 3,000 | 3,400 | -300 | – | – |
| **Information** | 6,400 | 6,400 | 6,600 | -200 | -781 | 381 |
| Telecommunications | 4,200 | 4,200 | 4,300 | -100 | – | – |
| **Financial Activities** | 14,100 | 14,000 | 15,300 | -1,200 | -3,143 | 743 |
| **Professional and Business Services** | 25,800 | 25,500 | 27,600 | -1,800 | -3,593 | -7 |
| **Educational**[4] **and Health Services** | 40,500 | 39,900 | 39,300 | 1,200 | -68 | 2,468 |
| Health Care | 29,000 | 28,500 | 28,400 | 600 | – | – |
| **Leisure and Hospitality** | 40,100 | 38,000 | 37,800 | 2,300 | 263 | 4,337 |
| Accommodations | 11,600 | 10,400 | 11,000 | 600 | – | – |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 22,600 | 22,000 | 21,100 | 1,500 | – | – |
| **Other Services** | 11,000 | 11,100 | 11,700 | -700 | -3,876 | 2,476 |
| **Government** | 81,700 | 87,400 | 79,900 | 1,800 | – | – |
| Federal Government[5] | 18,800 | 19,200 | 18,000 | 800 | – | – |
| State Government | 25,200 | 25,500 | 24,700 | 500 | – | – |
| State Government Education[6] | 5,700 | 6,100 | 5,600 | 100 | – | – |
| Local Government | 37,700 | 42,700 | 37,200 | 500 | – | – |
| Local Government Education[7] | 17,300 | 22,900 | 17,200 | 100 | – | – |
| Tribal Government | 4,100 | 4,100 | 4,100 | 0 | – | – |

# 5 Regional Employment
## Nonfarm wage and salary

| | Preliminary 7/10 | Revised 6/10 | Revised 7/09 | Changes from 6/10 | Changes from 7/09 | Percent Change 6/10 | Percent Change 7/09 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anch/Mat-Su | 173,800 | 175,800 | 173,600 | -2,000 | 200 | -1.1% | 0.1% |
| Anchorage | 152,200 | 154,850 | 152,500 | -2,650 | -300 | -1.7% | -0.2% |
| Gulf Coast | 34,300 | 33,200 | 34,200 | 1,100 | 100 | 3.3% | 0.3% |
| Interior | 48,050 | 48,600 | 48,150 | -550 | -100 | -1.1% | -0.2% |
| Fairbanks[8] | 40,000 | 39,800 | 39,500 | 200 | 500 | 0.5% | 1.3% |
| Northern | 19,700 | 19,850 | 20,350 | -150 | -650 | -0.8% | -3.2% |
| Southeast | 41,200 | 39,200 | 41,600 | 2,000 | -400 | 5.1% | -1.0% |
| Southwest | 25,300 | 21,350 | 25,400 | 3,950 | -100 | 18.5% | -0.4% |

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

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

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

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

[4] Private education only

[5] Excludes uniformed military

[6] Includes the University of Alaska

[7] Includes public school systems

[8] Fairbanks North Star Borough

*Sources for Exhibits 1, 2, 3 and 4: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics*

*Sources for Exhibit 5: 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*

# 4 Unemployment Rates
## Borough and census area

| | Prelim. 7/10 | Revised 6/10 | Revised 7/09 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **SEASONALLY ADJUSTED** | | | |
| **United States** | **9.5** | **9.5** | **9.4** |
| **Alaska Statewide** | **7.7** | **7.9** | **8.1** |
| **NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED** | | | |
| **United States** | **9.7** | 9.6 | 9.7 |
| **Alaska Statewide** | **6.9** | **7.6** | **7.3** |
| **Anchorage/Mat-Su Region** | **6.6** | **7.2** | **7.1** |
| Anchorage Municipality | 6.3 | 6.8 | 6.6 |
| Mat-Su Borough | 7.7 | 8.5 | 8.7 |
| **Gulf Coast Region** | **7.2** | **8.0** | **7.5** |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 7.9 | 8.7 | 8.3 |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 6.2 | 6.7 | 5.8 |
| Valdez-Cordova Census Area | 5.4 | 6.2 | 5.7 |
| **Interior Region** | **6.5** | **7.2** | **7.1** |
| Denali Borough | 4.1 | 4.3 | 3.8 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 6.0 | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| Southeast Fairbanks CA | 8.4 | 8.9 | 8.5 |
| Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area | 13.3 | 13.8 | 14.4 |
| **Northern Region** | **10.2** | **11.0** | **9.7** |
| Nome Census Area | 14.6 | 15.3 | 14.4 |
| North Slope Borough | 5.3 | 5.8 | 4.7 |
| Northwest Arctic Borough | 12.7 | 14.2 | 12.5 |
| **Southeast Region** | **5.9** | **6.7** | **6.1** |
| Haines Borough | 4.3 | 6.7 | 5.0 |
| Hoonah-Angoon Census Area[1] | 9.4 | 10.5 | 8.0 |
| Juneau Borough | 5.2 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough[1] | 5.4 | 6.5 | 5.1 |
| Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA[1] | 12.9 | 13.7 | 13.1 |
| Sitka Borough | 5.3 | 6.1 | 5.6 |
| Skagway Municipality[1] | 2.1 | 2.7 | 5.3 |
| Wrangell-Petersburg CA[1] | 6.8 | 8.8 | 7.2 |
| Yakutat Borough | 7.9 | 8.6 | 8.2 |
| **Southwest Region** | **9.8** | **12.4** | **10.1** |
| Aleutians East Borough | 5.8 | 8.9 | 6.5 |
| Aleutians West Census Area | 5.1 | 6.5 | 5.3 |
| Bethel Census Area | 14.4 | 16.3 | 14.0 |
| Bristol Bay Borough | 1.0 | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| Dillingham Census Area | 6.8 | 10.1 | 7.6 |
| Lake and Peninsula Borough | 5.1 | 6.0 | 5.2 |
| Wade Hampton Census Area | 22.6 | 22.7 | 24.0 |

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

### Changes in Producing the Estimates

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

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

For more current state and regional employment and unemployment data, visit our Web site: laborstats.alaska.gov

# Employer Resources

## File Online, Keep Employer Tax Rates Lower

Almost half of Alaska employers use Employment Security Tax Online Services to file Quarterly Contribution Reports.

Employment Security Tax Online Services are easy and convenient. Using these services, employers can:

- ✓ Enter quarterly wage information
- ✓ Submit zero or "no wages" reports
- ✓ Make payments through electronic funds transfer (EFT)
- ✓ View balance and payment history
- ✓ Update registration information
- ✓ Register a new business or change business type
- ✓ Request to close an account.

In addition to being convenient for employers, online reporting also helps the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development detect and prevent Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud up to four weeks quicker than reports filed by mail. Preventing fraudulent benefit payments keeps the UI Trust Fund healthy and employer tax rates lower.

To file quarterly contribution reports online and make payments electronically go to www.labor.alaska.gov/estax. For more information about unemployment insurance taxes, go to the website or call (907) 465-2757 in Juneau or (888) 448-3527 toll-free. The Unemployment Tax program is part of the Department of Labor's Employment Security Division.

# A Safety Minute

Trenching and excavation cave-ins caused 54 fatalities and thousands of serious injuries at worksites last year. Tragically, most excavation fatalities and injuries are caused by predictable hazards with well established methods of control. Employers are required to have a competent person perform several tasks at excavation sites. The competent person must be capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards that pose a danger to employees and must be authorized to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate hazards. The competent person is expected to understand the AKOSH regulations for excavation sites. Predictable hazards posing a danger to employees at excavation and trenching worksites include:

- Loose rock or soil
- Utility hazards
- Access and egress hazards
- Vehicular Traffic
- Falling loads
- Mobile equipment
- Hazardous atmospheres
- Water accumulation
- Stability of adjacent structures
- Fall hazards

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Training provides free on-site assistance to eliminate hazards, train workers and management, and comply with legal requirements. These services are available statewide and no fines are generated as a result of employers working voluntarily with Alaska Occupational Safety and Health. For more information, contact Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Consultation and Training at 800-656-4972 or Juneau.LSS-OSH@alaska.gov. More services are listed on our website at www.labor.alaska.gov/lss/.