

A photograph of two young children, a boy and a girl, looking intently at a large, silver fish. The boy is on the left, wearing a blue shirt, and the girl is on the right, wearing a grey sweatshirt. They are both holding the fish, which has a prominent tail and a reddish-orange head. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green grass and a blue and yellow striped umbrella.

# ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

OCTOBER 2013

## The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

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Alaska's civilian federal workers  
Personal transfer payments



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor  
Dianne Blumer, Commissioner

# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



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& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Sean Parnell, Governor  
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On the cover: The Matchian boys help with their family's subsistence harvest at the Ulroan/Matchian family fish camp on the Aprun River near Chevak. The boys' job was to move the cleaned fish to the drying rack.  
Photo by Brian Hoffman

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# Supporting employers and workers with safety training



**By Dianne Blumer,  
Commissioner**

This month's *Trends* features the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in southwestern Alaska. While the region's population continues its steady growth, 45 of 47 villages have fewer than 1,000 residents.

Both subsistence and commercial fishing are critical to life in the region. Bethel, the area's regional hub, provides more service industry jobs and half the region's jobs are in government service.

Also in this issue is a report on federal civil service jobs in Alaska, which provide more than \$1 billion in wages, or about 7.2 percent of the state's total wages. In terms of the number of Alaska workers, the 4.9 percent of jobs on the federal payroll is on par with the construction industry.

Given our long and rich history with the American military, it's no surprise that many federal civilian employees also work to keep our nation secure through the Department of Defense. Most of these jobs are in the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas, where military installations are located. The 25 highest-paying jobs average about \$20,000 higher than their counterparts in the private sector.

## Safety Training Courses

This month's Safety Minute focuses on training opportunities provided by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Labor Standards and Safety Division. The two free courses are offered by the divisions' Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Section, known as AKOSH.

AKOSH safety consultants partnered with Trident Seafoods to develop a 10-Hour Seafood Safety Training Course to help prevent accidents in Alaska's seafood processing industry, which typically has a high accident rate.

However, training and education to better understand workplace hazards and how to prevent them can help reduce injury and accident rates. The training, which is for floor managers, line managers, maintenance staff, and plant workers, has been successfully offered in Dillingham, Sand Point, and Kodiak.

The free Seafood Safety Training will be in Anchorage on Oct. 9 and 10 at the Midtown Job Center at 3301 Eagle Street. The two-day class from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. will include training on lock out/tag out, emergency action plans, and personal protective equipment.

For more information, contact seafood coordinator Mike Buck at (907) 269-4946 or [Mike.Buck@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Mike.Buck@Alaska.Gov).

AKOSH is also offering another free course — Hazard Communication 2012 Standard Revision — which will provide information needed to meet a new federal requirement imposed by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. In 2012, OSHA incorporated the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Hazardous Chemicals as part of the Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).

Under the revision, employers are legally required to train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet format by Dec. 1.

This training will help employees understand the updated standard requirement, with the goal of increasing worker comprehension and improving on-the-job safety.

The Hazard Communication training will be offered in Fairbanks and Juneau on Oct. 15 and in Anchorage on Oct. 23. For more information, contact training specialist Elaine Banda at (907) 269-4951 or [Elaine.Banda@Alaska.Gov](mailto:Elaine.Banda@Alaska.Gov).

# The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

## A look at the Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas



The picturesque coastline of this southwestern Alaska region is marked by the mighty Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers spilling out into the Bering Sea. The alluvial deposits left by the rivers' wanderings formed the landscape now known as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

Bounded to the south by the Kuskokwim Mountains and to the north by the Nulato Hills, the river basins occupied by these sinusoidal monsters and their tributaries provided a setting for the original inhabitants, the Yupik, to maintain a seminomadic subsistence lifestyle. Settlements were temporary, and tribes followed the same yearly migration as game and fish.

With western influence and the construction of church installations, seasonal camps became permanent settlements. European settlers established the lower Yukon River as a transfer point and set up trading posts for Gold Rush-era entrepreneurs who traveled as far inland as Dawson City in Canada's Yukon Territory.

Proximity to the water is key to the locations of the villages, which either lie on the coast or dot the

banks of these rivers and their inland tributaries.

Modern geopolitical boundaries define this region as the Bethel and Wade Hampton census areas. Although the two are combined here, the sparsely populated and remote villages that make up these two census areas are separated by large distances and economic gaps.

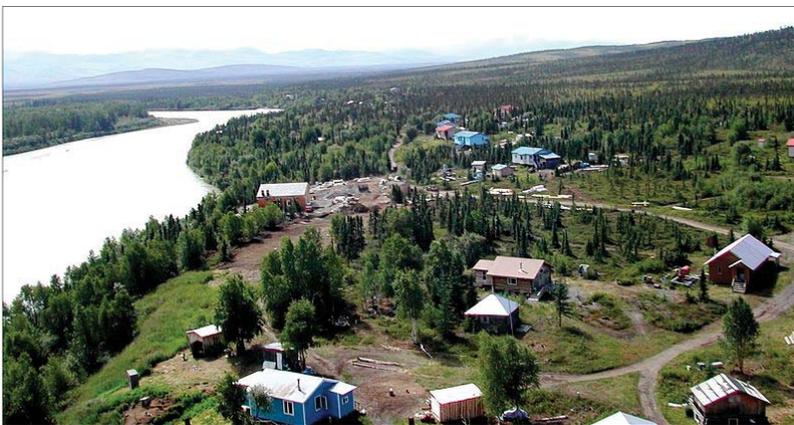
### 45 of 47 villages have fewer than 1,000 residents

Russian Orthodox and Jesuit missionaries, gold miners, and fishermen have made their mark on the area but the region's population of 25,300 remains about 87 percent Alaska Native.

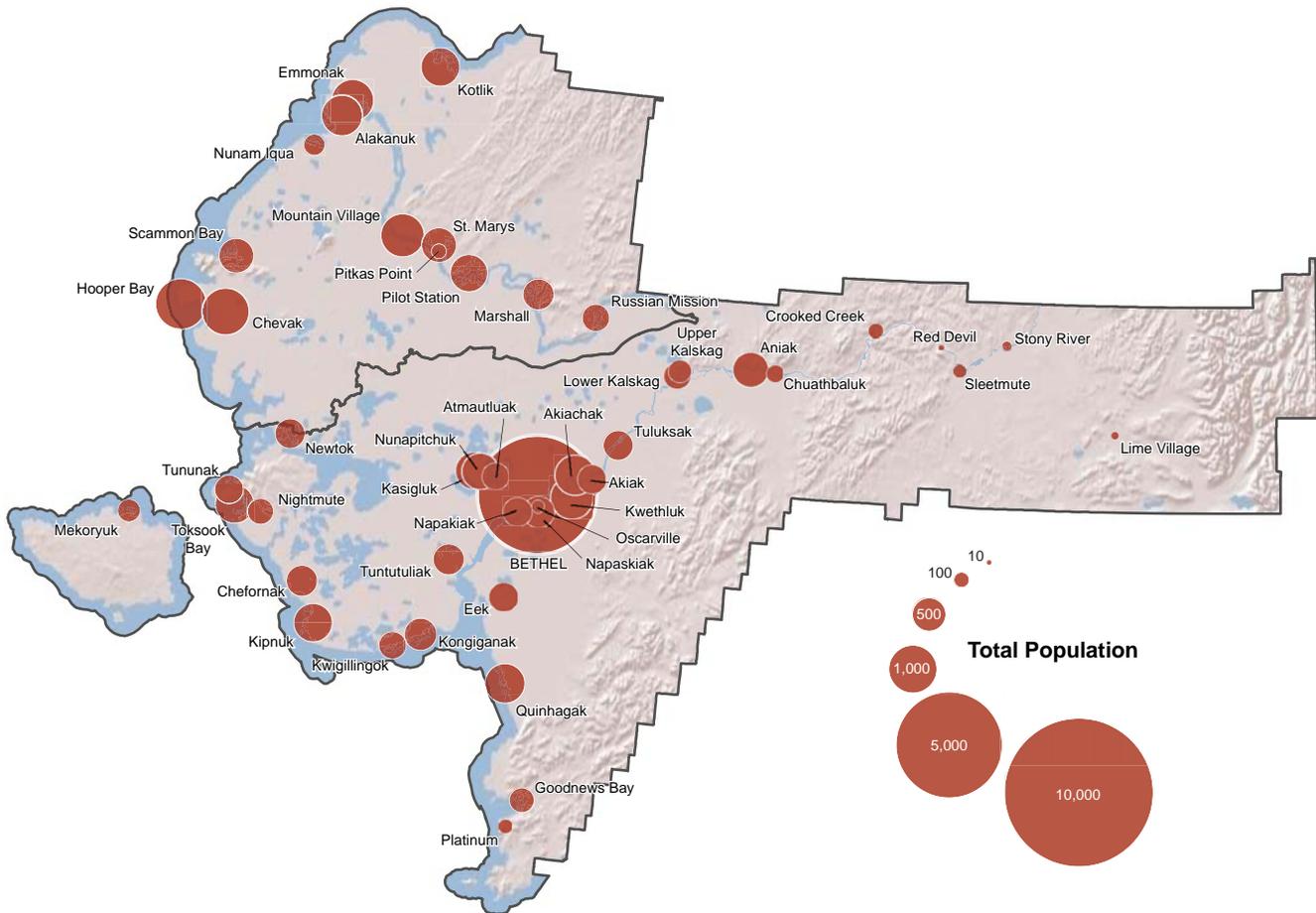
According to the 2010 Census, 17,000 of the Alaska Natives in the area were Yupik, and about 1,400 identified as Inupiat or other Alaska Native. The Alaska Native Language Center estimates that about 10,000 people statewide speak Central Yupik, and although that participation outpaces other tribal language groups because of early missionary scholarship, it remains a threatened language.

The region's population has grown steadily since 1990 — a few hundred per year on average — due mostly to high birth rates and low out-migration.

Forty-five of the area's 47 villages have fewer than 1,000 inhabitants. The two exceptions are Hooper Bay (1,114 in 2012) and the city of Bethel (6,113), the regional hub. (See Exhibit 1.) Bethel is also the most racially diverse community, with 65 percent Alaska Natives, 23.3 percent whites, and the remainder identifying as another race or two or more races. Bethel's range of services creates demand for labor that isn't available in the small villages so it attracts outsiders, contributing to Bethel's lower proportion of Natives.



Above: Lime Village, a census-designated place in the Bethel Census Area, had a population of 29 people living in 11 households at the time of the 2010 Census. The village has also been known as Hungry Village and Hek'dichen Hdakaq. Photo by Gary Holton



## Economic challenges

The fragmented and insulated distribution of the region's villages creates far different economic conditions for households than in more populated parts of Alaska. Though the Y-K Delta resembles other rural areas in some ways, its other economic indicators reach the extremes. For example:

- Poverty and unemployment rates in the region, excluding Bethel, are among the highest in the nation. Similarly, average wages per job and per capita incomes are among the lowest. The Wade Hampton Census Area's per capita income was \$22,000 in 2011, the lowest in Alaska and less than half the statewide average of \$45,700. The Bethel Census Area ranked sixth-lowest at \$32,100.
- The cost of living is high, and not just because prices are high due to transportation costs. Because subsistence work requires high amounts of time and energy, the cost of living is also high from an opportunity-cost perspective.
- Government has become a tenuous and poten-

tially unsustainable source of funding. Government employment in the area has been flat for a decade and the future of federal funding in particular is unknown.

- Outside government, commercial fishing is the only industry that brings in money from outside the region. Fisheries' performance can fluctuate wildly from year to year.

Geography also provides a daunting challenge because of isolation and limited resources. Obstacles these villages face include permafrost, bank erosion, and harsh winters. Some originally mobile communities that have become fixed in a particular spot are seeing the land washed out from under their structures.

## Half of jobs in government

Government employment is the largest source of wage and salary jobs in the region, and it hasn't grown in the last decade. Wade Hampton's employment was 69 percent government, the highest rate in Alaska and among the highest in the country. The Bethel Census Area had a higher share of

# 1 Y-K Villages Population, 2012

	Population
Regional total	25,300
<b>Bethel Census Area</b>	<b>17,600</b>
Akiachak	663
Akiak	361
Aniak	541
Atmautluak	302
Bethel	6,113
Chefornak	434
Chuathbaluk	138
Crooked Creek	90
Eek	339
Goodnews Bay	258
Kasigluk	594
Kipnuk	641
Kongiganak	464
Kwethluk	751
Kwigillingok	317
Lime Village	27
Lower Kalskag	306
Mekoryuk	210
Napakiak	358
Napaskiak	434
Newtok	377
Nightmute	294
Nunapituchuk	549
Oscarville	69
Platinum	74
Quinhagak	689
Red Devil	19
Sleetmute	84
Stony River	42
Toksook Bay	638
Tuluksak	384
Tuntutuliak	420
Tununak	354
Upper Kalskag	214
Balance	52
<b>Wade Hampton CA</b>	<b>7,700</b>
Alakanuk	707
Chevak	970
Emmonak	755
Hooper Bay	1,114
Kotlik	628
Marshall	414
Mountain Village	830
Nunam Iqua	185
Pilot Station	597
Pitkas Point	102
Russian Mission	312
St. Mary's	524
Scammon Bay	536
Balance	26

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



Above, Hooper Bay, a village in the Wade Hampton Census Area, is also known as Naparyarmiut in Central Yupik. Photo by C.T. Liotta

private sector jobs, with 45 percent government employment in 2012, or 3,120 jobs. (See Exhibit 2.) About half the region's government jobs are in education, with five local school districts and a small Bethel extension of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Tribal government jobs numbered 1,040 in 2012. Local councils often provide services that would ordinarily be administered privately, from village utilities to construction to public health clinics.

Private employment increased by 21 percent in the region between 2001 and 2003 due to expansion of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, the region's largest private employer; new seafood processing firms; and increased construction from bulk-fuel capacity increases and other capital construction projects. After the 2003 peak of 4,600 jobs, private employment slowly declined until 2008 and then began to recover, reaching 4,515 jobs in 2012.

## Bethel aids village life

Bethel had more than 60 percent of the region's private jobs in 2012. The city hosts the region's large health and social care centers, housing authority, and air transportation headquarters. Breaking down Bethel's impact as the regional hub

is difficult — for instance, the regional health center's coverage area includes all communities but the jobs and wages are counted in Bethel. The same is true for Grant Air and Hageland Aviation, whose pilots provide essential air transportation between villages.

Plans for a movie theater in the region's "big city" are in the works, and other capital improvements could result in minor growth for private employment. Some of the boost from construction work would be temporary, however.

## Outside Bethel, private jobs mostly basic services

With the exception of two fish plants and a branch of the regional health care corporation, few large firms generate jobs in the villages outside of Bethel. Most private employment in the villages is connected to Native corporations, including many of the general stores.

In 2012, 70 village stores accounted for 745 jobs, and local utility, weatherization, and construction firms had 240 jobs. Crucial bush airlines provide about 75 year-round jobs. The remaining 350 often part-time positions were either related to the corporations or the roughly 20 other small private village enterprises.

## Fishing provides seasonal work

Canneries provide seafood processing jobs from May to October, with the fishing season typically running from June to August. Cannery employment peaked in July of 2012 at 805, buoying rural employment.

Low salmon returns on the Yukon River have been a concern in recent years, putting pressure on both commercial and subsistence users. King and chum are the two most important species to the area, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports that king have been in a “prolonged period of low productivity.” Chum returns have been better, but erratic since 1993. These lower runs combined with high fuel prices have made the economics of salmon fishing challenging, and subsistence has also been restricted.

The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission estimates that in 2012, the 1,126 fishermen in the two census areas harvested \$7.5 million in seafood, mostly from salmon. Price fluctuations put this value in the middle historically, despite lower runs.

In 1992, a community development quota group created a pollock allocation for western Alaska, adding halibut and sablefish in 1995 and crab in 1998. Coastal Villages Regional Fund is the CDQ group for 20 of the region’s communities, and qual-

## 2 Half of Jobs Are in Government

Y-K Delta employment and wages, 2012

	Jobs	Wages
<b>Total employment</b>	<b>9,308</b>	<b>\$318,682,602</b>
Bethel Census Area employment	6881	\$260,098,498
Wade Hampton Census Area employment	2427	\$58,584,104
<b>Total private sector jobs</b>	<b>4526</b>	<b>\$170,131,946</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	23	\$2,080,153
Utilities	117	\$2,847,187
Construction	64	\$5,018,099
Manufacturing	253	\$6,250,876
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1040	\$20,212,329
Transportation	448	\$17,899,152
Financial Services	402	\$16,325,289
Professional And Business Services	106	\$5,248,975
Education and Health Care	1282	\$70,005,686
Leisure and Hospitality	147	\$1,675,293
Other Services	644	\$22,568,907
<b>Total government</b>	<b>4782</b>	<b>\$148,550,656</b>
Federal government	109	\$5,174,729
State government	377	\$26,312,053
Local government	4296	\$117,063,874
Local government education	2131	\$76,769,335
Tribal government	1038	\$18,272,210

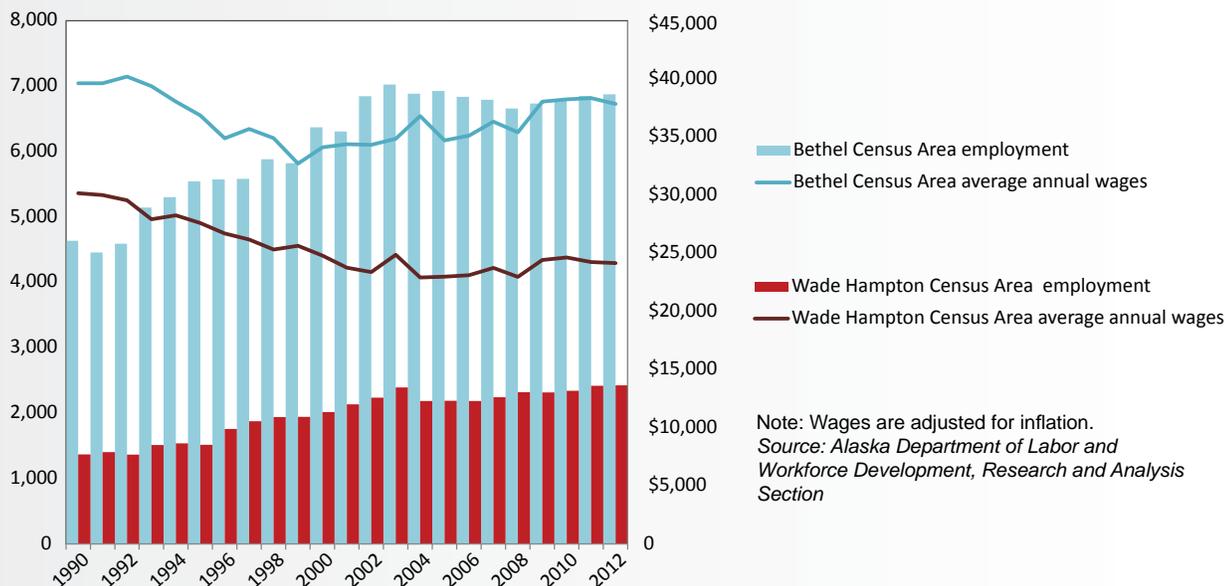
Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

ified residents can obtain quota from the group. CVRF also owns a fleet that runs commercial pollock and crab vessels in the Bering Sea, and

See Y-K DELTA, page 15

## 3 Steady Growth in Jobs, But Average Wages Fell Through the '90s

Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas, 1990 to 2012



# Federal Civilian Jobs in Alaska

Small share of employment brings in over \$1 billion a year

The federal government has always played a leading role in Alaska's economy, especially before statehood when it ran the territory. Although the size of the federal workforce has waxed and waned in recent history, the federal government's presence here in terms of its share of jobs is still fourth-largest in the nation after Washington, D.C.; Maryland; and Hawaii.

The military is big in Alaska, but the smaller civilian piece of federal employment is significant on its own. It made up 4.9 percent of Alaska jobs and paid 7.2 percent of wages in 2012 — more than \$1 billion. (See the sidebar on the next page for more

on Alaska's federal workers, including how much they make.)

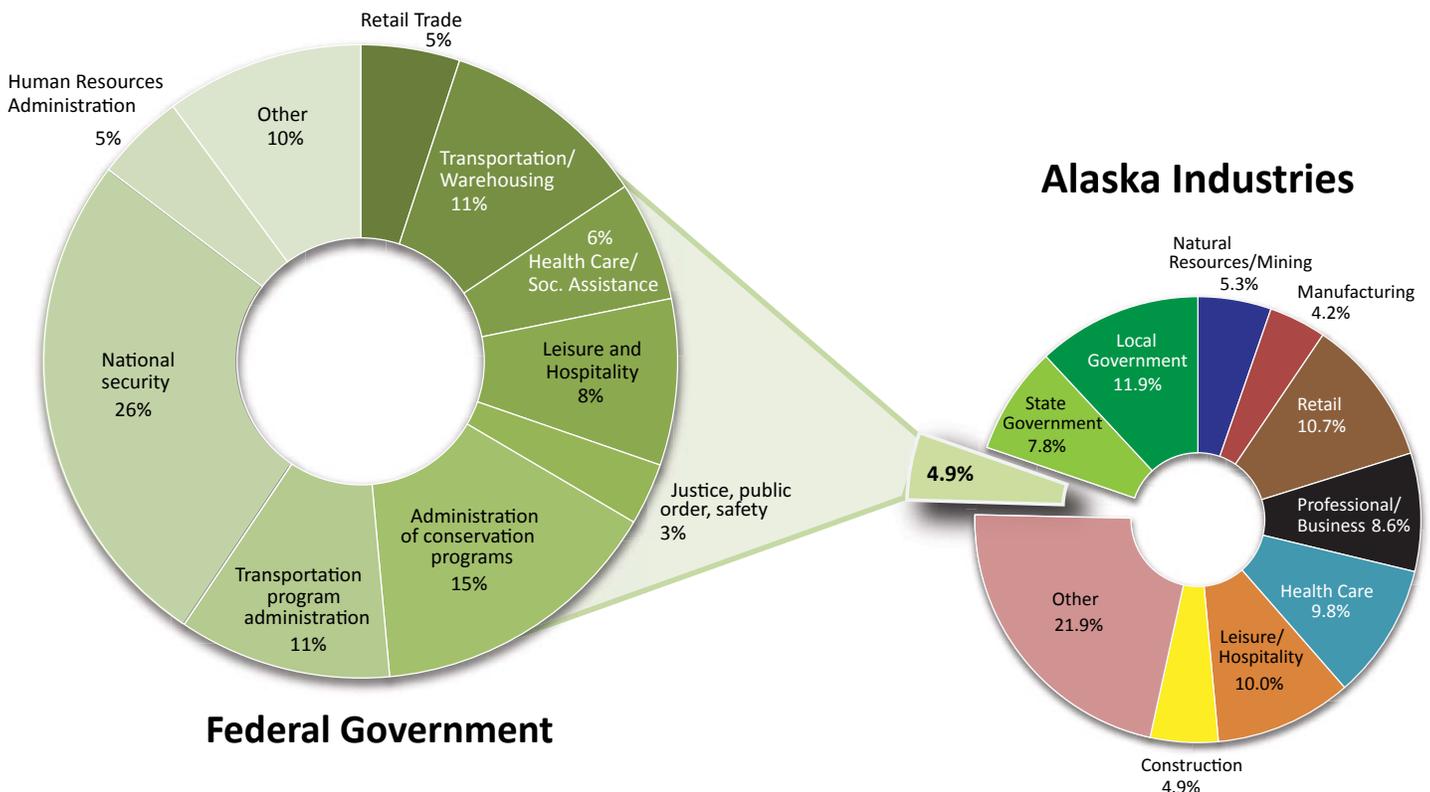
## 26 percent are in national security

The military has 23,237 personnel<sup>1</sup> in Alaska, and the federal civilian workforce stands at 16,390. But many of those civilian jobs also serve the military and are directly tied to the state's bases. Partly because of the large military presence, national security is the largest percentage of federal civil-

<sup>1</sup>Military positions are not counted in the Department of Labor's regular wage and salary employment data.

## 1 The Federal Government Share of Alaska's Employment

Industries and types of federal civilian work, 2012



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

# Characteristics and salaries of Alaska's federal workers

By PAUL MARTZ

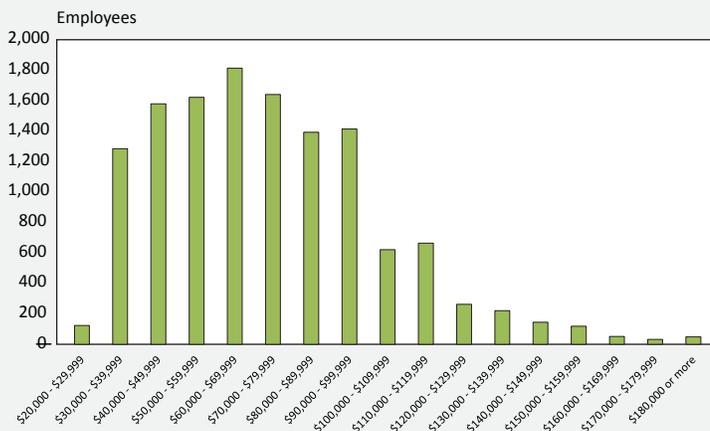
Federal departments in Alaska aren't required to report their employees' occupational data, which limits the state's ability to look at the jobs and demographics of federal workers. However, combining several data sources allowed the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development to produce estimates for federal workers and their characteristics for the first time.

- Of the roughly 13,048<sup>1</sup> federal civilian employees in Alaska in 2012, **62 percent were men and 38 percent were women**. The largest share, 43 percent, worked in management, business, or administrative support positions. The next largest group was life, physical, and social scientists at 16 percent, followed by transportation workers at 9 percent.
- **Salaries tend to be high:** The majority, 51 percent, made between \$40,000 and \$79,999. The average was \$71,775, substantially higher than the 2012 statewide average of \$55,272. Part of the reason the federal average is higher

See *FEDERAL WORKERS*, page 11

<sup>1</sup>This value is less than the total employment listed in the main article because of reporting limitations by the U.S. Office of Personnel and Management. For a full list of coverage, see [fedscope.opm.gov](http://fedscope.opm.gov).

## Over half make between \$40,000 and \$79,000



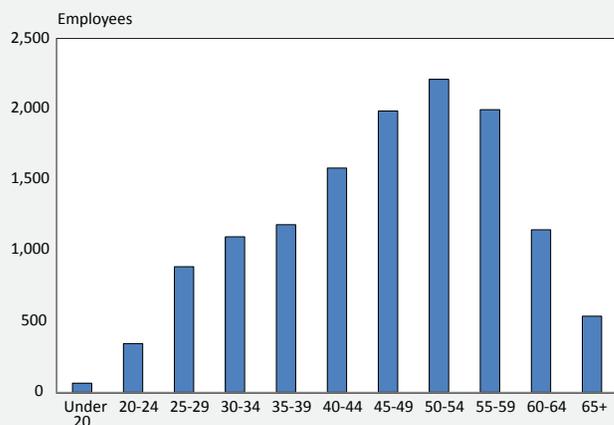
Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and Federal Office of Personnel Management

## Business, finance lead occupations

Occupation group	Count
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	3,284
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	2,131
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	1,459
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1,168
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	899
Management Occupations	857
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	680
Protective Service Occupations	651
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	616
Legal Occupations	206
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	195
Production Occupations	191
Construction and Extraction Occupations	173
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	164
Health Care Support Occupations	90
Community and Social Services Occupations	85
Personal Care and Service Occupations	67
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	50
Sales and Related Occupations	29
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	22
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	18
Military-Specific Occupations	13

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

## Most are between ages 20 and 49



ian jobs — 26 percent in 2012 — all of which are handled by the largest department, the Department of Defense. (See exhibits 1 and 2.)

The Department of Defense represents 32 percent of civilian federal jobs, followed by the Department of the Interior — which includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management — at 16 percent. The Bureau of Land Management is particularly significant in Alaska because 60 percent

of Alaska's land is federally owned. BLM deals with much of the state's land conservation, land transfers and management (including trail maintenance and campgrounds), firefighting, and oil and gas leasing.

Coming in third and fourth for jobs were the Department of Agriculture and the Postal Service, respectively.

The federal government's various branches spe-

## 2 Defense is the Largest By Far

### Select federal agencies in Alaska, 2012

Agency	Jobs
Department of Defense (Civilian)	5,175
Department of the Interior	2,645
Department of Agriculture	1,612
Postal Service (USPS)	1,455
Federal Aviation Administration	1,278
Department of Homeland Security	968
Private Retailers on Military bases	843
Department of Veterans Affairs	643
Army Air Force Exchange Service	527
Financial Management Division, Morale/Welfare/Recreation	292
Department of Health and Human Services/ Indian Health	245
Department of Justice	220
United States Courts	123
Coast Guard Exchange System, Morale/Welfare/Recreation	121
Social Security Administration	63
General Services Administration	45
Department of Housing and Urban Development	37
Environmental Protection Agency	36
Office of Personnel Management	16
Small Business Administration	12

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

cialize in a range of services, such as health care, social services, retail, and tourism. (See Exhibit 1.)

Retail and tourism-related jobs made up 5 and 8 percent of federal employment respectively in 2012. Some of these jobs support the state's military population while others serve tourists in places such as Denali National Park and Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park near Skagway.

## Jobs all around the state

Every Alaska borough and census area has federal positions, but some rely more on the U.S. government than others. Not surprisingly, Anchorage had the largest number of federal jobs — 9,117 in 2012 — but the federal government has a bigger financial impact on many smaller areas and is often a larger percentage of a rural area's economy. (See Exhibit 3.)

For example, the federal government paid over 17 percent of all wages in the Denali Borough and over 25 percent in the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area last year, and none of those jobs were tied to the military. Another area with a large percentage of federal civilians is the small Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, with jobs mainly tied to Fort Greely.

The Haines Borough had the fewest federal jobs at just 10 in 2012. These were mostly with the Postal Service, with a handful in customs and border control.

## Federal employment trends

The federal government makes its mark in Alaska's regional economies of all sizes because of its variety of services, high wages, and broad geographic presence, but its influence has fluctuated over the years. Overall, its employment numbers have been fairly steady since the mid-1990s, but the last two decades have been marked by a couple of major economic changes. (See Exhibit 4.)

Federal employment peaked in the early 1990s when a small increase in the infan-

## 3 Federal Footprint Varies By Area

### Alaska, 2012

Area	Federal employment	Total federal wages	Federal % of total jobs	Federal % of total wages
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>16,390</b>	<b>\$1,202,597,441</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
Aleutians East Borough	21	\$1,227,841	1.1%	1.9%
Aleutians West Census Area	15	\$978,044	0.4%	0.6%
Anchorage, Municipality	9,117	\$700,369,876	5.9%	8.5%
Bethel Census Area	86	\$4,480,976	1.3%	1.7%
Bristol Bay Borough	59	\$3,998,193	4.5%	7.3%
Denali Borough	229	\$14,814,541	11.9%	17.6%
Dillingham Census Area	52	\$2,959,904	2.0%	3.0%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	3,264	\$218,757,177	8.3%	11.7%
Haines Borough	10	\$1,039,917	1.0%	3.2%
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	109	\$6,163,725	15.1%	25.5%
Juneau, City and Borough	829	\$71,980,772	4.5%	8.3%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	389	\$28,486,735	1.9%	3.3%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	257	\$19,092,708	3.5%	6.0%
Kodiak Island Borough	343	\$18,497,161	5.3%	6.8%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	41	\$1,939,087	5.2%	6.5%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	210	\$17,712,365	1.0%	2.2%
Nome Census Area	65	\$3,649,428	1.6%	2.1%
North Slope Borough	21	\$1,285,481	0.1%	0.1%
Northwest Arctic Borough	50	\$2,864,970	1.7%	1.5%
Petersburg Census Area	107	\$7,798,889	6.3%	12.6%
Prince of Wales-Hyder CA	95	\$6,188,066	4.9%	8.7%
Sitka, City and Borough	143	\$10,620,801	3.2%	6.0%
Skagway, Municipality	54	\$3,558,247	6.1%	10.3%
Southeast Fairbanks CA	443	\$32,029,477	17.7%	21.1%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	159	\$10,246,534	3.3%	4.4%
Wade Hampton Census Area	24	\$693,753	1.0%	1.2%
Wrangell, City and Borough	54	\$3,344,582	6.6%	11.0%
Yakutat, City and Borough	24	\$1,616,450	7.7%	14.7%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	102	\$5,136,870	4.0%	5.2%

Note: An additional 17 jobs have an unknown location.

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

## FEDERAL WORKERS

Continued from page 9

is the federal government's larger percentage of high-paying technical occupations, such as those in engineering and health care, which skews its average upward.

- Highest-paying occupations:** On average, the salaries of the 25 highest-paying federal occupations in Alaska were about \$20,000 higher than the same occupation for a different employer. However, this wasn't always the case; for example, the statewide average wage for a petroleum engineer was \$234,555 in 2012 — \$125,000 more than the federal wage. Also, the wage for a nonfederal podiatrist was about \$78,000 greater than the federal counterpart.
- Average ages:** About 54 percent of federal civilian employees were between 20 and 49 years old, with the remaining 46 percent at age 50 and older. Overall, 28 percent met the minimum federal retirement age of 55, though that doesn't mean all of those workers qualified to retire at that age.
- About half have more than 10 years in:** In 2012, 53 percent of federal employees had between one and nine years of service and 47 percent had more than 10 years. Combining the length of service with average age statistics showed that at least 8 percent met the most strin-

## The 25 highest-paying categories

Occupation title	Avg annual salary
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$204,444
Food Scientists and Technologists	\$155,500
Administrative Law Judges, Adjudicators, and Hearing Officers	\$148,179
Lawyers	\$129,074
Podiatrists	\$125,924
Computer and Information Research Scientists	\$122,431
Ship Engineers	\$121,224
Training and Development Managers	\$113,062
Aerospace Engineers	\$113,000
Engineers, All Other	\$111,741
Pharmacists	\$111,668
Electrical Engineers	\$111,651
Air Traffic Controllers	\$109,811
Petroleum Engineers	\$109,477
Transportation Inspectors	\$107,882
Appraisers and Assessors of Real Estate	\$105,341
Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers	\$104,656
Materials Engineers	\$104,265
Statisticians	\$103,900
Chemists	\$101,470
Computer Hardware Engineers	\$101,286
Life Scientists, All Other	\$101,286
Civil Engineers	\$100,547
Environmental Engineers	\$100,217

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

gent minimum retirement qualification, or about 1,084 people, and about 22 percent met the typical qualifications for early retirement.

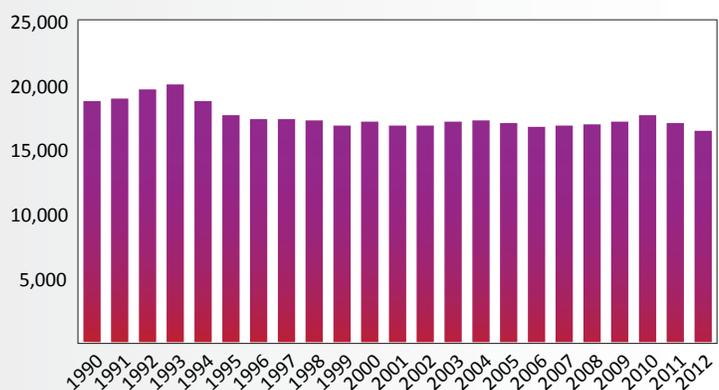
try division at Fort Wainwright and greater construction spending created more civilian jobs, but budget cuts in the late '90s brought those levels back down.

The sharp losses tapered into more of a slow leak and then evened out until another smaller jump in employment in 2010. This increase came with the creation of temporary positions to conduct the 2010 Census, but those jobs disappeared quickly thereafter and since 2010, federal job levels have continued to decline each year. The 2012 job count of about 16,300 is significantly lower than the 1993 peak of around 20,000.

In 2013, Alaska is forecasted to lose another 300 federal jobs. Some of the recent losses are likely tied to the military — though the size of the state's active duty military has increased overall since 2000, it too has declined slightly in recent years, resulting in cutbacks to civilian employee budgets on and off military installations.

## 4 Federal Jobs Down the Past 2 Years

Alaska, 1990 to 2012



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

# Personal Transfer Payments

## Types of income outside regular employment

**P**ersonal transfer receipts are payments people receive without performing any current service. These payments are part of a person's total personal income, which is the amount one takes in each year from all sources, including wages from a job.

Transfer payments are an important source of personal income and are intended to provide a social safety net for people in different circumstances, from old age or illness to losing a job or supporting a family. Examples are retirement and disability payments; medical, income maintenance, unemployment, and veterans benefits; and federal education and training assistance. In Alaska, transfer payments also include Permanent Fund Dividends.

Transfer payments can come from governments or private businesses, but the vast majority are payments government makes to individuals. Government transfer payments to nonprofit agencies

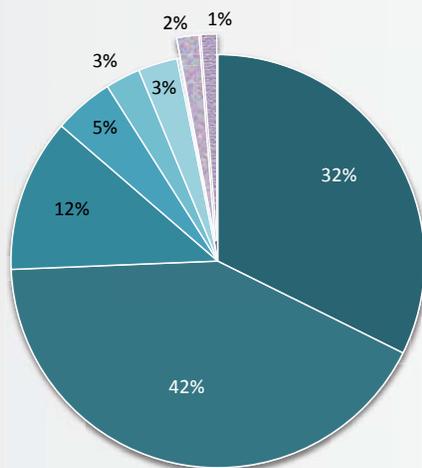
make up just 2 percent of the total annually, and payments to individuals from businesses are just over 1 percent. (See Exhibit 1.)

In 2011, the most recent year for which data are available, Alaskans received more than \$5 billion in transfer payments, or 16 percent of their total personal income. Nationally, more than \$2 trillion was paid out as transfer receipts, making up 18 percent of U.S. personal income. In Alaska and nationwide, 97 percent of these transfer receipts were payments to individuals from governments.

The largest share of government payments were medical benefits, both in the state and nationally. (See Exhibit 1). In Alaska, 66 percent of medical benefit payments were through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program — or CHIP — and 31 percent were Medicare benefits.

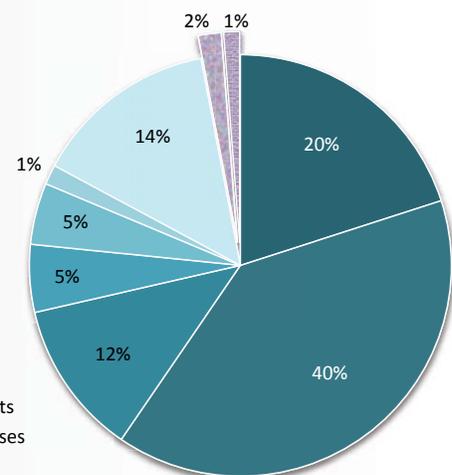
Nationally, Medicaid benefits and CHIP made up

### 1 U.S. and Alaska Transfer Payments In 2011 dollars



United States

- Government payments to individuals
  - Retirement and disability
  - Medical benefits
  - Income maintenance
  - Unemployment
  - Veterans benefits
  - Education and training assistance
  - Other (includes the PFD)
- Other types of payments
  - Government payments to nonprofits
  - Payments to individuals by businesses



Alaska

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

41 percent of total medical benefits, and Medicare benefits were 56 percent. Alaska's Medicare payment share is less because it has a much smaller proportion of senior citizens. That also explains why retirement and disability insurance benefits make up a smaller part of total transfer payments in Alaska than in the U.S.

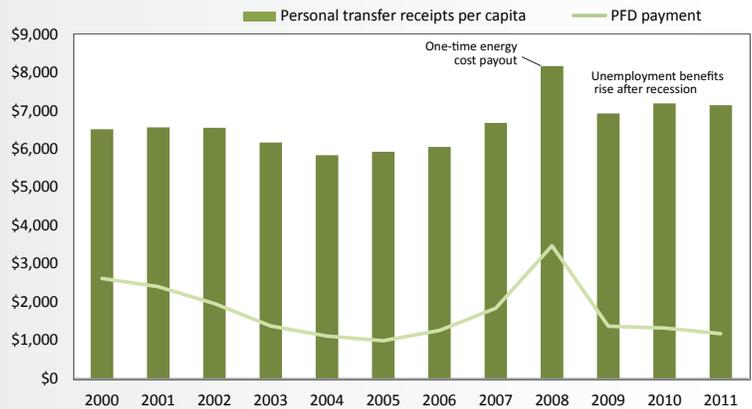
The third-largest category of transfer payments in Alaska was the Permanent Fund Dividend, which falls into the category of other transfer payments to individuals by governments. This category made up 14 percent of total transfer payments in the state in 2011.

Exhibit 2 shows Alaska per capita personal current transfer receipts graphed alongside that year's PFD, adjusted for inflation. The most obvious impact of the PFD was in 2008, when a large dividend was coupled with a one-time \$1,200 energy rebate.

Exhibit 3 compares Alaska and U.S. per capita transfer receipts, and also shows Alaska's per capita transfer receipts minus the PFD. Alaska's transfer payment trend becomes similar to that of the U.S. as a whole when the PFD's influence is removed.

Data on transfer payments are available for Alaska's boroughs and census areas, but estimates at the sub-state level are not as reliable. In 2011, Denali Borough had the highest per capita transfer payments at \$14,294, followed by the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area at \$13,383. Amounts for

## 2 Transfer Payments and the PFD Alaska, 2000 to 2011



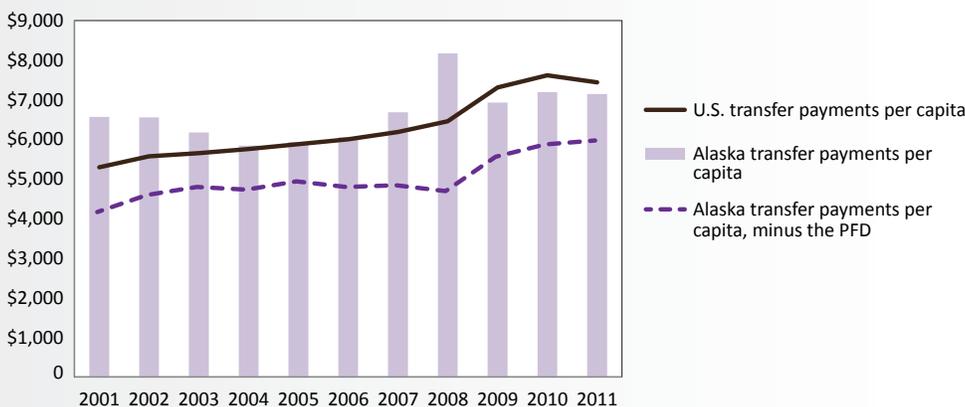
Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Alaska Department of Revenue

the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, Northwest Arctic Borough, Wade Hampton Census Area, and Nome Census Area were all between \$10,000 and \$11,000.

The lowest amounts were in the Aleutians West Census Area and Aleutians East Borough, at \$3,654 and \$3,521 respectively.

Demographics play a large role in transfer payments at the local level. Areas with higher populations of senior citizens have a larger share of retirement benefits. Lower income areas typically have higher percentages of income maintenance benefits, which include family assistance and supplemental nutrition assistance.

## 3 U.S. and Alaska Transfer Payments In 2011 dollars

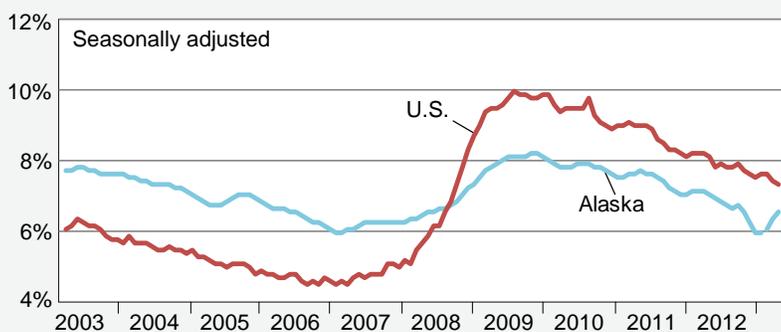


Sources: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; Alaska Department of Revenue

# Employment Scene

## The month in numbers

### 1 Unemployment Rates January 2003 to August 2013



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

### 2 Statewide Employment Nonfarm wage and salary

Alaska	Preliminary		Revised		Year-Over-Year Change	
	8/13	7/13	8/12	8/12	90% Confidence Interval	
<b>Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary<sup>1</sup></b>	355,200	356,800	357,100	-1,900	-7,977	4,177
Goods-Producing <sup>2</sup>	58,600	60,300	59,100	-500	-3,466	2,466
Service-Providing <sup>3</sup>	296,600	296,500	298,000	-1,400	-	-
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	18,900	18,700	18,200	700	-535	1,935
Mining	18,200	18,000	17,800	400	-	-
Oil and Gas	14,800	14,700	14,300	500	-	-
<b>Construction</b>	21,500	20,700	20,100	1,400	-113	2,913
<b>Manufacturing</b>	18,200	20,900	20,800	-2,600	-4,959	-241
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	6,200	6,300	6,500	-300	-639	39
<b>Retail Trade</b>	37,900	38,200	37,400	500	-284	1,284
Food and Beverage Stores	6,400	6,400	6,500	-100	-	-
General Merchandise Stores	10,300	10,300	10,100	200	-	-
<b>Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities</b>	25,100	25,000	24,700	400	-434	1,234
Air Transportation	6,400	6,400	6,400	0	-	-
<b>Information</b>	6,100	6,100	6,200	-100	-375	175
Telecommunications	4,000	4,000	4,200	-200	-	-
<b>Financial Activities</b>	14,200	14,300	14,000	200	-667	1,067
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	29,300	29,500	30,200	-900	-2,256	456
<b>Educational<sup>4</sup> and Health Services</b>	46,700	47,000	46,400	300	-835	1,435
Health Care	33,800	34,100	33,200	600	-	-
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	40,200	40,300	40,500	-300	-2,969	2,369
<b>Other Services</b>	12,100	12,200	11,800	300	-521	1,121
<b>Government</b>	78,800	77,600	80,300	-1,500	-	-
Federal Government <sup>5</sup>	15,200	15,400	16,800	-1,600	-	-
State Government <sup>6</sup>	25,500	25,100	25,600	-100	-	-
State Government Education <sup>7</sup>	6,700	6,000	6,700	0	-	-
Local Government	38,100	37,100	37,900	200	-	-
Local Government Education <sup>8</sup>	18,700	17,500	19,200	-500	-	-
Tribal Government	3,600	3,700	4,100	-500	-	-

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

<sup>1</sup>Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and other agricultural workers, and private household workers. For estimates of fish harvesting employment and other fisheries data, go to [labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm](http://labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm).

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

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

<sup>4</sup>Private education only

<sup>5</sup>Excludes uniformed military

### 3 Unemployment Rates Boroughs and census areas

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	Prelim.	Revised	
	8/13	7/13	8/12
<b>United States</b>	7.3	7.4	8.1
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	6.5	6.3	7.0
<b>NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>			
<b>United States</b>	7.3	7.7	8.2
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	5.7	5.9	6.2
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	5.1	5.3	5.6
Municipality of Anchorage	4.8	4.9	5.2
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	6.1	6.6	6.9
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	5.7	5.9	6.4
Kenai Peninsula Borough	6.1	6.1	6.8
Kodiak Island Borough	4.2	5.0	5.3
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5.6	5.9	5.7
<b>Interior Region</b>	5.7	6.0	6.1
Denali Borough	3.5	3.6	3.9
Fairbanks North Star Borough	5.1	5.2	5.5
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	9.1	10.0	9.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	12.2	14.3	12.4
<b>Northern Region</b>	9.3	9.5	9.7
Nome Census Area	11.7	12.3	11.8
North Slope Borough	4.9	5.1	5.3
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.9	13.8	14.5
<b>Southeast Region</b>	4.7	5.0	5.3
Haines Borough	4.7	5.0	4.7
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	8.3	9.1	9.2
Juneau, City and Borough of	4.0	4.1	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	4.2	4.6	5.0
Petersburg Census Area <sup>1</sup>	5.5	5.6	7.9
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	9.9	10.3	11.4
Sitka, City and Borough of	3.9	4.3	4.4
Skagway, Municipality of	2.5	2.2	2.4
Wrangell, City and Borough of	6.3	7.2	6.2
Yakutat, City and Borough of	5.6	6.4	6.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	11.4	11.1	12.0
Aleutians East Borough	9.2	8.5	10.0
Aleutians West Census Area	6.5	7.1	6.9
Bethel Census Area	15.1	16.1	15.7
Bristol Bay Borough	1.9	1.1	2.4
Dillingham Census Area	7.6	7.3	8.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	4.9	4.3	5.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	20.1	23.7	21.3

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

<sup>6</sup>This number is not a count of state government positions, but the number of people who worked during any part of the pay period that included the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month (the same measure used for all employment numbers in this table). The numbers can vary significantly from month to month; when attempting to identify trends, annual averages are more useful.

<sup>7</sup>Includes the University of Alaska. Variations in academic calendars from year to year occasionally create temporarily large over-the-year changes.

<sup>8</sup>Includes public school systems. Variations in academic calendars from year to year occasionally create temporarily large over-the-year changes.

# Safety Minute

## Free course will help meet OSHA-required hazard training

In 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration incorporated the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Hazardous Chemicals as part of the Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1200. **Employers are legally required to train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet format by Dec. 1.**

Don't be caught out of compliance. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Occupational Safety and Health Section will offer free training to help employers meet this deadline. The training will include:

- An explanation of GHS
- HazCom 2012 and "The Right to Understand"
- New chemical labeling system and pictograms
- Format of safety data sheets (SDS)

- Important implementation dates

Classes will be held at the following locations on these dates:

OCT 15:  
4325 Cinch St.  
Fairbanks

OCT. 23:  
3301 Eagle St. Room 104  
Anchorage

OCT. 15:  
1111 W. 8th St. Room 303  
Juneau

For more information, times, and to register, please contact AKOSH training specialist Elaine Banda at (907) 269-4951 or [elaine.banda@alaska.gov](mailto:elaine.banda@alaska.gov). Space is limited, so please register today.

## Seafood safety training available Oct. 9 and 10 in Anchorage

The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Occupational Safety and Health Section will present a 10-hour seafood safety training course in Anchorage Oct. 9 and 10 at the department's Eagle Street location.

These free classes will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day and include the following modules:

- Introduction to OSHA
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Confined Space
- Lock Out Tag Out
- Slips, Trips, and Falls
- Machine Guarding
- Cuts and Lacerations
- Reports and Investigations
- PSM and Ammonia
- Ergonomics
- Marine Terminals
- Electrical Safety
- Material Handling
- Emergency Action Plans
- Hazard Communications
- Sanitation and Chemical Handling
- Health Hazards
- Bloodborne Pathogens

The seafood processing industry is a business with a high accident rate where education and training can significantly improve injury statistics. This course, which is a cooperative effort by AKOSH and Trident Seafoods, has been developed to provide floor managers, line managers, maintenance personnel, and plant workers with a better understanding of workplace hazards.

Each successful student will receive an AKOSH 10-hour Seafood Safety Training Card, which certifies completion of the course. It is important to note this training does not satisfy safety requirements for employers to provide training for specific programs; these courses are for awareness only.

To apply for this class, contact seafood coordinator Mike Buck at (907) 269-4946 or [mike.buck@alaska.gov](mailto:mike.buck@alaska.gov). The office is located at 3301 Eagle St., Anchorage, 99503.

## Y-K DELTA

Continued from page 7

owns and operates the Goodnews Bay processing plant and halibut-buying stations in the coastal communities. The plant made news early this year when it announced a \$10 hourly starting wage for processors, which is about \$3 higher than the industry standard.

### Subsistence a key resource

Fish camps are still an iconic image of the river lands, with

dried salmon hanging on racks and the smell of alder smoke. Salmon and other fish are the most common subsistence resources in the region, and trapping also plays a part.

The climate also allows delta subsistence users to hunt and gather a wider variety of plants and animals than their northern Inupiat counterparts. Subsistence is essential to augment residents' diets because of the low availability of jobs and the high cost of food in grocery stores, especially in the smaller villages. Although relocating to a more urban area might mean more available jobs, subsistence is also part of Native cultural heritage, which creates strong ties to the land and its resources.