

# ALASKA ECONOMIC **TRENDS**

NOVEMBER 2010



## Employment in Alaska's Seafood Industry

### WHAT'S INSIDE

#### Alaska's "Other" Manufacturing

The 29 percent outside of seafood processing

#### Employment Scene

Unemployment rate at 7.8 percent



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Governor Sean Parnell

Commissioner Click Bishop

# ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Governor Sean Parnell  
Commissioner Click Bishop

November 2010  
Volume 30  
Number 11  
ISSN 0160-3345

Brynn Keith, Chief  
Research and Analysis

Sara Whitney, Editor  
Sam Dapcevich, Graphic Artist

To contact us for more information, a free subscription, mailing list changes, or back copies, e-mail [trends@alaska.gov](mailto:trends@alaska.gov) or call (907) 465-4500.

*Alaska Economic Trends* is a monthly publication dealing with a wide variety of economic-related issues in the state. Its purpose is to inform the public about those issues.

*Alaska Economic Trends* is funded by the Employment Security Division within the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. It's published by the Department of Labor.

*Alaska Economic Trends* is printed and distributed by Assets, Inc., a vocational training and employment program, at a cost of \$1.16 per copy.

Material in this publication is public information, and with appropriate credit may be reproduced without permission.

Cover:  
Salmon seiners fish outside Aleutkina Bay, on the southern portion of Sitka Sound.  
Photo courtesy of [sitkaphotos.com](http://sitkaphotos.com)

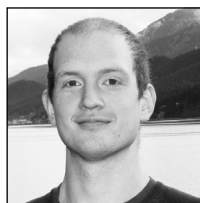
## Correction

The Kennecott Mine is located near McCarthy. On page 11 in October's issue of *Trends*, we incorrectly stated that it's near McGrath.

To contact *Trends* authors or request a free subscription, email [trends@alaska.gov](mailto:trends@alaska.gov) or call (907) 465-4500. *Trends* is on the Web at [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov).

Employment in the Seafood Industry	4
Alaska regions saw a mix of losses and gains in 2009	
Alaska's "Other" Manufacturing	12
The 29 percent outside of seafood processing	
Employment Scene	17
Unemployment rate at 7.8 percent	

## Trends Authors



Josh Warren, an Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development economist in Juneau, specializes in Alaska resident and new hire studies, wage record analysis, and seafood industry research. To reach him, call (907) 465-6032 or e-mail him at [Joshua.Warren@alaska.gov](mailto:Joshua.Warren@alaska.gov).



Neal Fried, a Department of Labor economist in Anchorage, specializes in the Anchorage/Mat-Su region's employment, wages, and the cost of living. To reach him, call (907) 269-4861 or e-mail him at [Neal.Fried@alaska.gov](mailto:Neal.Fried@alaska.gov).



## Fishing Industry Vital to Alaska

**By Commissioner Click Bishop**

Fish are among Alaska's most important natural resources, with a 2009 harvest valued at more than \$1.2 billion. The industry employs almost 54,000 workers at some time during the year in harvesting or processing. June, July, and August are the peak months for Alaska's fishing industry, which leads the nation in the amount and value of fish harvested. More than 50 percent of all fish harvested in the U.S. comes from Alaska.

Alaska's fisheries are the most sustainable and best-managed in the world.

Commercial fishing is one of the largest private-sector industries in the state, including all seafood harvesting and processing. It accounts for more than 50 percent of basic private-sector employment in many of our coastal communities.

Thousands of visitors come to Alaska each year to enjoy our world-class sport fishing, and they contribute to the economy by supporting local businesses.

Both Alaska Natives and non-Natives rely on our fisheries for subsistence, which has been elemental to Alaskan culture for thousands of years. Fish comprise 60 percent of subsistence foods taken each year, and this tradition allows a love of fishing to be passed from one generation to the next.



# Employment in the Seafood Industry

Alaska regions saw mix of losses and gains in 2009



**A**laska's fishing industry is a major economic engine, leading the nation in fish harvesting value and poundage. Harvesting and processing also help drive our state economy. In 2009, the industry directly employed at least 53,500 workers at some point during the year. (See Exhibit 1.)

This article is an overview of total workers and average monthly employment<sup>1</sup> in the Alaska fishing industry. It also provides a focused look at species and regions, and reviews how we create annual size estimates using fish harvest records, wage records, and other data sources.

<sup>1</sup> This article refers to both jobs and workers when discussing employment numbers. Unless otherwise specified, "jobs" refers to annual average monthly jobs. "Workers" refers to the number of distinct workers in that sector. These two statistics can trend in different directions because multiple individuals can work the same job, and because jobs are averaged over the entire year.

## Estimating harvester employment

Although seafood processing workers and jobs are included in Alaska wage and salary employment numbers, fish harvesting workers<sup>2</sup> fall outside the normal labor force reporting process — just like self-employed workers and the military, two other major sources of state employment. Because fish harvesters are exempt from reporting employment and workers' earnings, not all harvesters and crew are counted in the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's regular employment data series.

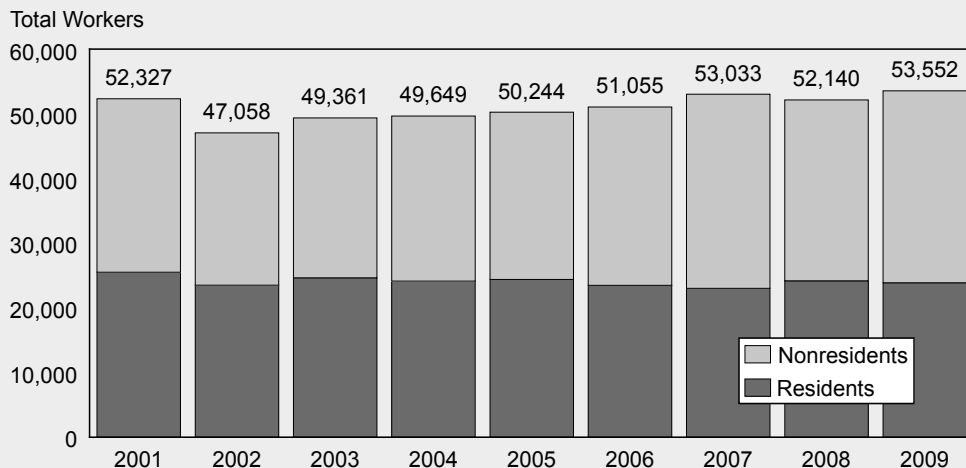
Given the economic importance of the industry and the lack of precise employment estimates, the Department of Labor created a special data series to fill this gap. (For detailed information on how we developed this data series, refer to the crew factor discussion in the methodology sidebar near the end of this article.) We update these estimates

of the number of workers and average monthly employment annually in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The term "fish harvesting" is used instead of the more generic "fishing" reference to clarify that only jobs created for permit holders and crew who are directly involved in harvesting the fish are included. It does not include the many jobs in processing, tendering, and other related activities. This article addresses processing jobs separately.

<sup>3</sup> Fish and Game primarily manages the in-shore fishery within three miles from shore, the Western Alaska crab fisheries, and some groundfish fisheries. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service supervises the fisheries between three miles and 200 miles off shore (the international border line). The International Pacific Halibut Commission oversees halibut harvests.

## 1 Employment in the Fishing Industry Alaska, 2001 to 2009



Residency determined by self-reporting and PFD matching where possible.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

## Total industry numbers in 2009

Throughout 2009, there were almost 30,000 people harvesting fish in Alaska waters. Roughly 20,000 were licensed crew while the remaining 10,000 held permits. Seafood processing is the other large industry sector, with around 24,000 people employed at some point during 2009.

While harvesting and processing employed a total of 53,522 people last year, most in the fishing industry are not working year-round. Because of the industry's dramatic seasonal pattern, its average monthly employment is much smaller. The overall mean is approximately 16,234 people: about 7,100 in harvesting and 9,100 in seafood processing in 2009. (See Exhibit 2.) However, the average monthly fish harvesting job count<sup>4</sup> hit 20,075 at its summer peak, and seafood processing reached a high of 19,387 summer workers from its monthly average of 9,147.

Alaska's total fish harvesting workforce grew from 2008 to 2009, adding 1,412 workers for a 2.7 percent gain. However, the average monthly job count went down from 7,370 to 7,087.

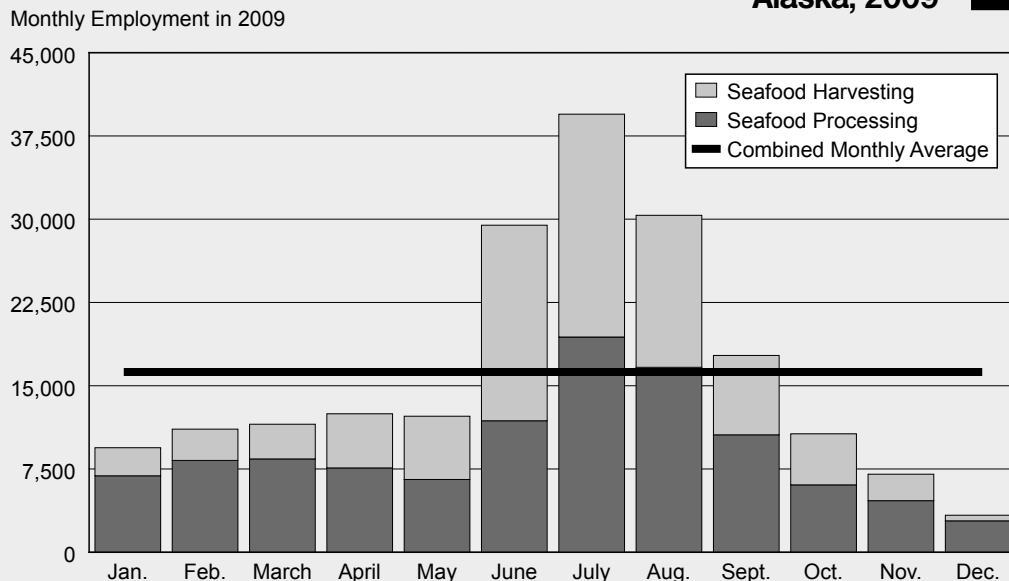
## Dependence varies by region

The fishing industry benefits all areas of the state differently. The regions that rely on it most are the Aleutians and Bristol Bay. The other coastal areas<sup>5</sup> also have strong harvesting and processing employment, but the interior and larger city centers such as Anchorage and Fairbanks have less direct industry involvement.

<sup>4</sup>For data on average monthly jobs, go to: <http://www.labor.state.ak.us/research/seafood/statewide/AKAvgMonthlySpec.pdf>.

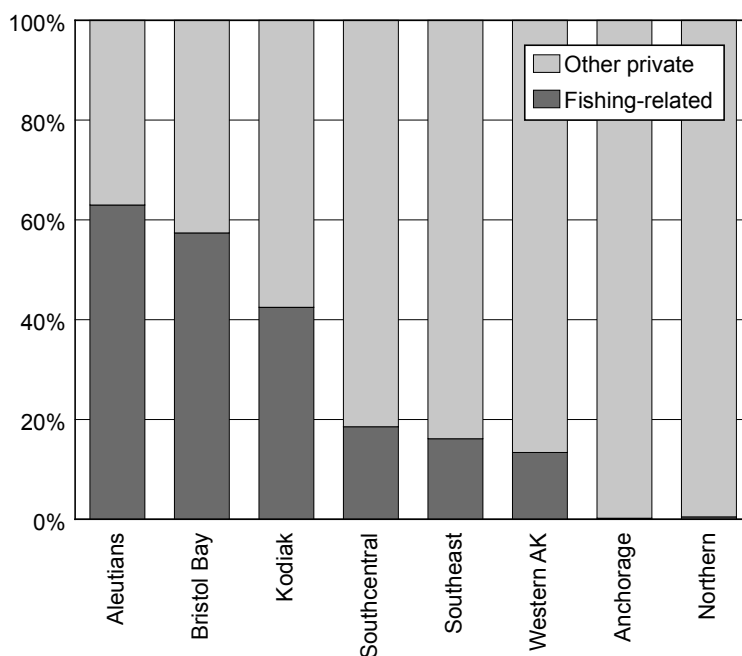
<sup>5</sup> "Coastal" is all of the state boroughs excluding the Municipality of Anchorage; the Matanuska-Susitna, Fairbanks North Star, and Denali boroughs; and the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area.

## Activity Peaks in Summer Alaska, 2009 2



Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

## Regional Importance of Fisheries Annual percentage of workers, 2009 3



Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

The Aleutians depend most on the fishing industry, with 78.6 percent of the workforce involved in processing or harvesting at peak in the first quarter of the year. (See Exhibits 3 and 4.) The fourth

## 4 Harvesting Workforce and Gross Earnings By Area, 2006 to 2009

Region and Year	Individuals Who Fished Permits <sup>1</sup>	Percent Nonresident Permit Holders	Estimated Number of Crew Members	Total Estimated Workforce <sup>2</sup>	Total Gross Earnings of Permit Holders <sup>3</sup>	Percentage of Total Gross Earnings by Nonresident Permit Holders
<b>Aleutian and Pribilof Islands</b>						
2006	952	43.0%	3,908	4,860	\$617,999,680	89.5%
2007	1,040	42.8%	4,114	5,154	\$444,955,461	73.6%
2008	1,084	43.3%	4,336	5,420	\$812,394,704	81.9%
2009	1,070	43.7%	4,239	5,309	\$657,505,626	84.1%
<b>Bristol Bay</b>						
2006	2,317	44.3%	6,995	9,312	\$96,094,632	54.7%
2007	2,257	45.9%	6,800	9,057	\$110,826,728	55.7%
2008	2,356	45.4%	7,112	9,468	\$113,625,188	56.0%
2009	2,335	47.4%	7,050	9,385	\$133,326,958	58.8%
<b>Kodiak</b>						
2006	744	26.7%	2,528	3,272	\$89,178,455	36.7%
2007	742	26.3%	2,526	3,268	\$122,303,929	26.7%
2008	835	26.8%	2,835	3,670	\$140,034,618	29.9%
2009	820	27.2%	2,844	3,664	\$111,163,060	34.3%
<b>Northern</b>						
2006	151	0.7%	345	496	\$1,823,734	ND
2007	145	0.7%	324	469	\$2,045,962	ND
2008	199	0.0%	431	630	\$3,214,020	0.0%
2009	199	0.0%	428	627	\$2,780,621	0.0%
<b>Southcentral</b>						
2006	1,860	22.6%	4,571	6,431	\$75,839,102	30.0%
2007	2,127	25.2%	5,386	7,513	\$193,246,998	31.7%
2008	2,310	24.8%	5,854	8,164	\$195,525,629	29.2%
2009	2,283	25.5%	5,788	8,071	\$131,353,891	29.2%
<b>Southeast</b>						
2006	2,520	21.2%	6,545	9,065	\$135,937,555	27.8%
2007	2,638	22.6%	6,897	9,535	\$191,835,207	26.8%
2008	2,815	22.5%	7,170	9,985	\$201,478,290	26.2%
2009	2,835	23.8%	7,315	10,150	\$173,481,400	30.4%
<b>Yukon Delta</b>						
2006	903	0.1%	1,813	2,716	\$12,444,777	ND
2007	1,006	0.1%	2,039	3,045	\$4,786,208	ND
2008	1,104	0.3%	2,226	3,330	\$7,555,700	ND
2009	987	0.3%	1,999	2,986	\$5,941,948	ND

ND: Not disclosable.

<sup>1</sup> Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

<sup>2</sup> 'Workforce' refers to the number of individual fishing permits plus the crew members needed for the permit they fish. Statewide crew member counts are estimates derived from crew license sales.

<sup>3</sup> Gross earnings, or revenue, are currently the most reliable data available, but are not directly comparable to wages as expenses have not been deducted.

Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

quarter shows the lowest percentage of fishing industry workers — but even during that quarter, over 64 percent of the labor force worked in fishing. When each worker is counted only once over the entire year, 63 percent of all workers in the Aleutians are part of the fishing industry.

The region with the second highest percentage of the workforce in fishing is the Bristol Bay region, with 57 percent of its workers involved in harvesting and processing at some time in 2009. However, the industry's relative importance in Bristol Bay is much more seasonal than in the Aleutians, because Bristol Bay's high-value fisheries only open for a few weeks at most. In the second and third quarters, about 65 percent of its workers were employed in fishing, compared to only about 3 percent in the first and fourth quarters of that year.

Kodiak's fisheries are also highly seasonal. During the summer, fishing employment makes up around 50 percent of the total, dropping to the mid-30<sup>th</sup> percentile during the winter months. On an annual basis, 42 percent of the workforce in Kodiak is involved in fishing.

Southeast, Southcentral, and Western Alaska also have strong seasonal patterns in their fishing employment. Each has a peak quarter with around 25 percent of the labor force working in the fishing industry.

The Anchorage and Northern regions (including Fairbanks) are large population centers with little direct economic dependence on fishing. They do, however, provide some seasonal fish harvesting and processing workers to the coastal areas. They also give direct and indirect support to processing and transportation of fish, and therefore benefit significantly from the industry.

## Regional results mixed

In terms of total estimated workers, numbers dropped everywhere between 2008 and 2009 except Southeast, which gained 165 estimated workers, or 1.7 percent. (See Exhibit 4.) State-

wide, there was an overall gain of 799 active permit holders and purchased crew licenses last year — an addition of 958 total crew members offset by a loss of 159 permitted fishermen.

## Harvests by fishery

### Salmon

The Alaska salmon fishery is composed of five species: king, sockeye, pink, chum, and coho. Sockeye comprise the majority of the harvest in Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Chignik, Cook Inlet, and the Copper River area; pinks dominate in Southeast Alaska, Prince William Sound, and Kodiak; chum are the main harvest for the Kuskokwim and Yukon Delta regions; and king salmon are predominant in the Northern region on the Yukon.<sup>6</sup>

Despite a slight decrease in salmon prices from 2008 to 2009, Alaska's salmon fishery had the largest number of harvesting jobs in 2009, with an average of 3,830: a slight increase from the 2008 figure of 3,739.

On average, the salmon fishery employs about 54 percent of harvesting workers. However, due to the extreme seasonality of this fishery, it claims about 83 percent of all fish harvesting workers at its yearly peak.

Average monthly employment for the salmon fishery remained stable in 2009, gaining just 91 jobs. However, due to large summer

## Fish Harvesting Workers All Alaska Fisheries, 2006 to 2009

# 5

Fishery and Year	Individuals Who Fished Permits <sup>1</sup>	Percent Nonresident Permit Holders	Estimated Number of Crew Members	Total Estimated Workforce <sup>2</sup>	Total Gross Earnings of Permit Holders <sup>3</sup>	Percentage of Total Gross Earnings by Nonresident Permit Holders
<b>Crab</b>						
2006	486	25.7%	1,765	2,251	\$110,660,029	70.4%
2007	456	23.2%	1,563	2,019	\$168,591,117	70.5%
2008	468	26.5%	1,658	2,126	\$241,015,434	76.4%
2009	465	26.9%	1,612	2,077	\$180,540,771	76.6%
<b>Groundfish/Other</b>						
2006	583	38.9%	2,482	3,065	\$259,106,352	78.6%
2007	612	39.4%	2,602	3,214	\$536,482,510	36.4%
2008	664	35.7%	2,741	3,405	\$547,453,862	85.7%
2009	668	30.2%	2,645	3,313	\$444,888,943	89.5%
<b>Halibut</b>						
2006	2,209	18.9%	4,504	6,713	\$197,454,034	32.0%
2007	2,249	18.9%	4,522	6,771	\$215,631,109	32.7%
2008	2,123	19.2%	4,283	6,406	\$206,488,880	32.7%
2009	2,135	18.8%	4,251	6,386	\$135,817,842	33.7%
<b>Sablefish</b>						
2006	660	31.5%	1,567	2,227	\$76,450,614	48.8%
2007	647	31.7%	2,162	2,809	\$74,970,755	50.2%
2008	639	31.6%	2,138	2,777	\$77,925,245	45.5%
2009	661	30.9%	2,187	2,848	\$72,507,648	47.5%
<b>Herring</b>						
2006	330	16.7%	778	1,108	\$9,847,180	22.1%
2007	257	17.1%	913	1,170	\$14,822,700	21.4%
2008	336	17.6%	1,122	1,458	\$23,004,150	17.9%
2009	393	20.4%	1,298	1,691	\$23,416,301	28.1%
<b>Miscellaneous Shellfish</b>						
2006	373	21.2%	297	670	\$13,666,507	48.0%
2007	315	21.6%	542	857	\$11,908,409	47.9%
2008	319	24.1%	534	853	\$10,287,505	45.6%
2009	343	23.0%	593	936	\$14,721,032	48.0%
<b>Salmon</b>						
2006	6,884	26.0%	9,859	16,743	\$313,164,123	35.2%
2007	6,857	27.0%	9,911	16,768	\$346,622,891	36.0%
2008	6,797	26.9%	9,874	16,671	\$367,167,052	34.2%
2009	7,323	27.5%	10,609	17,932	\$344,752,605	38.9%

<sup>1</sup> Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

<sup>2</sup> 'Workforce' refers to the number of individual fishing permits plus the crew members needed for the permit they fish. See the methodology for more detail.

<sup>3</sup> Gross earnings, or revenue, are currently the most reliable data available, but are not directly comparable to wages as expenses have not been deducted.

Sources: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission; National Marine Fisheries Service; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

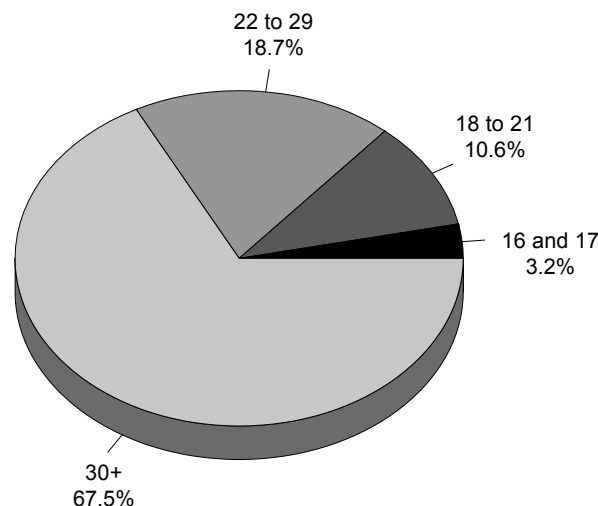
peaks, the total worker pool was 17,932 people — an increase of 1,261 over 2008. (See Exhibit 5.)

### Halibut

The trend in harvesting employment for the halibut fishery has continued its slow but steady decline. From 2008 to 2009, 132 average

<sup>6</sup> For more information about Alaska's seafood industry employment, go to the Research and Analysis Web site at: [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov), click on "Industry Information" in the left-hand column, then "Seafood Industry." You can also access the Web site by visiting [labor.alaska.gov](http://labor.alaska.gov) and clicking on "Researchers" in the gold bar at the top.

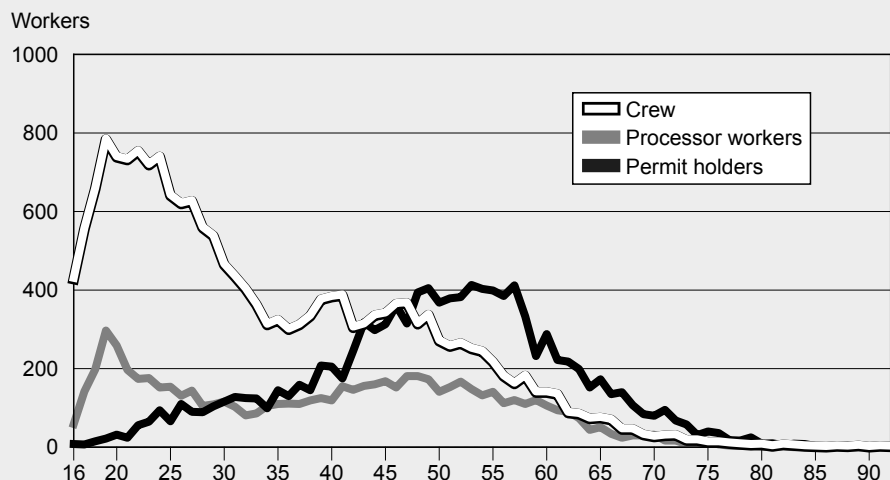
## 6 Age Shares of the Fishing Industry Alaska, 2009



Includes only those who reported valid birth years.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

## 7 Age Profile for Fishing Sectors Alaska, 2009



Includes only those who reported valid birth years.

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

monthly jobs were lost. This brought the average number of jobs to 1,047 for each month. The total workforce for the fishery was 6,386 — 20 fewer workers than in 2008.

### Sablefish

Average monthly employment in the sablefish fishery has also continued to fall over the years. During 2009 there were 394 jobs per average month, a de-

crease of 17 from 2008.

Despite the decline in average employment, the total number of people involved in sablefish increased by 71. This brought the estimated number of sablefish harvesting workers to 2,848 in 2009.

### Herring

Herring fishery employment grew last year, but it failed to completely recover the significant job losses it suffered in 2001 and 2006. During the 2006 fishing season, the herring fishery lost 103 jobs — nearly half the average monthly workforce.

In 2008, there was a small recovery movement that resulted in a modest increase of an estimated six jobs. In the most recent season, the herring fishery rebounded with strength, gaining 67 jobs. Herring also showed strong growth in the total number of workers in the fishery, with an estimated increase of 233 in harvesting.

### Miscellaneous shellfish

The miscellaneous shellfish fishery continued its slow growth in 2009, gaining only five jobs. Although the employment of 126 people in 2009 is low historically, employment is recovering and re-approaching its 2002 high of 173 workers.

Despite the low average monthly employment in the miscellaneous shellfish fishery — which is dominated by shrimp, clams, and sea cucumbers — this sector has a large number of total workers. There are 936 people who harvested during 2009 — an increase of 83 over 2008.

### Groundfish

The relatively stable year-round groundfish fishery supports the third-largest group of harvesting employees. The fishery has a secure and modestly growing employment base, representing about one-sixth of the annual average jobs in harvesting.

Average monthly groundfish employment declined from 2008 to 2009 after several years of modest



## Methodology

Because fisheries data come from a variety of sources with varying lag times, harvesting estimates are not available as quickly as other data series the department publishes. For example, information on fish landings is reported annually, several months after the end of the calendar year. This can lead to a significant delay between the fish harvest and data publication.

### Landings and crew factors

As a substitute for detailed payroll records<sup>1</sup>, state and federal fish management agencies provide the Department of Labor with information on the specific “landings” made under each commercial permit over the year. A landing is the initial sale of harvested fish to a buyer. To create employment and workforce estimates from landings, the Department of Labor uses “crew factors” developed from surveys and industry research to quantify the labor needed to fish specific permits.

For example, the crew factor for an S04Y permit — a permit to fish for salmon in the Lower Yukon with gillnets — is two. So, if a landing is recorded under an S04Y permit, we attribute two workers to that permit. Each permit holder has a unique identifying number that allows the Department of Labor to assign only one set of workers to a specific permit holder, per permit, in any given calendar month even if there are numerous landings during the month.<sup>2</sup>

We also assign the jobs by place of work rather than the residence of the workers. Most permits have a geographic designation where specific species can be harvested. In the above example of an S04Y permit, the “Y” stands for the Lower Yukon Region, regardless of what species is fished. All landings under that type of permit create employment in the ports of Western Alaska. Permits that allow fishing anywhere in the state receive a special harvest area code.

<sup>1</sup> Another factor limiting employment data for fisheries is that the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which governs how employment is counted in the federal-state cooperative program called Current Employment Statistics, defines fishing as an agricultural activity. Agricultural employment has traditionally been excluded from employment statistics under this program.

<sup>2</sup> The same approach to counting the number of monthly jobs is used for other industries in that a person who works 60 hours in a week for a single employer is counted the same as a person who works 20 hours in a week. Each is said to hold one job in that month.

### The permit is the employer

We deem the permit itself the employer, which means that a permit holder who makes landings under two different permits in the same month will generate two sets of jobs. Considering the permit the employer rather than the permit holder is a slightly better approximation of how jobs and workers are counted in wage and salary numbers. If permit holders were the employers, it would incorrectly appear that they maintain identical crew for every permit.

Residency for harvesting is based on what permit holders claim when they purchase fishing permit applications. Permit holders are required to sign a statement saying that except for brief intervals, military service, or attendance at an educational or training institution, they have been in Alaska for the last 12 months and intend to stay within the state indefinitely. The applicants also may not receive any benefits as residents of another state, territory, or country. Permit holders who signed this statement are considered residents for this report.

### Prep time doesn't count

The harvesting employment estimates are conservative because they don't reflect any time spent by permit holders or their crew preparing to fish or winding up operations at the end of the season. This is because the Department of Labor determines the months of work only by months with registered landings. So if the permit holder works for two weeks in May getting the boat ready and begins making landings in June, we don't count the effort in May as employment despite its obvious importance to the enterprise.

A recent proposal by the Department of Fish and Game would collect actual crew counts associated with each landing, eliminating the need for crew factors and harvesting estimates. However, that proposal is undergoing further study.

In the coming year, the Department of Labor also plans to conduct a special survey of permit holders to obtain updated crew factors. The survey will collect additional information about the time spent preparing a vessel for fishing or working at the end of the season.

growth. There were 3,313 groundfish harvesting workers during 2009, which was a drop from the 3,404 reported in 2008.

### Crab

Crab fisheries in the state suffered a loss in monthly employment from 2008 to 2009. In 2009, 24 jobs were lost — a decrease of 5 percent from the previous year. The crab fishery also lost 49 harvesting workers last year.

## Many younger workers

The Department of Labor and Workforce and Development has access to more information about crew license holders than it has in the past. These additional data on Alaska vessels' crews provide a more complete picture of the type of person who enters these challenging occupations.

This detailed information shows the number of workers employed in fish harvesting by age group.

About 47 percent of crew license holders are 29 or younger, supporting the observation that the fishing industry is a major employer of young workers in the state. (See Exhibit 7.) Only about 31 percent of all workers in wage and salary employment in 2009 were 29 or younger.

The summer peak in harvesting and processing employment coincides with summer break from school, making the fishing industry an attractive option for students. Permit holders, the other segment of harvesting workers, are much older than their crew, with an average age of 50 in 2009. (See Exhibit 7.)

Seafood processing workers also tend to be older than crew. In 2009, processing workers with age information (derived from historical Permanent Fund Dividend applicant data) reported an average age of 39 in 2008, close to the average age of 40 for all wage and salary workers.

Even though the mean age for all fishing workers is comparable to the statewide average, some individual fishing sectors are much more “youthful” — especially fish harvesting, which has a large peak of workers in their mid-20s.

## 2010 looks promising

Given the lag in available indicator data, these detailed employment and earnings estimates are for 2009 only. Once data collection for the current year draws to a close, we will be able to compare all of Alaska’s fisheries including its largest — groundfish and salmon — to see how the harvesting season played out in 2010.

However, preliminary data show a very large salmon harvest, outperforming last year’s and the five-year average. Most of the spike came from pink salmon harvesting in Prince William Sound. On a statewide basis, this should lead to higher estimated harvesting employment and an increase in the number of seafood processing workers compared to 2009 in the salmon fishery.

Groundfish catch reports also show similar jumps over the 2009 values. Because groundfish represents a majority of the fishing indus-

try earnings in Alaska, the increase of 40,000 metric tons so far this year is further evidence of greater employment in fisheries in 2010.

## Summary

Harvesting and seafood processing are an integral part of Alaska’s economy, employing tens of thousands of Alaskans. These employment estimates attempt to quantify the importance of this industry, which like other employment sectors has its own ebb and flow. Nevertheless, even with this less-than-record year, Alaska has higher earnings, higher employment, a larger workforce, and greater catch poundage than a decade ago.

## Tips for seeking work as a crew member on Alaska fishing vessels

### A tough search

There are many tales about people who easily landed a job as a crew member in Alaska's fishing industry on a highliner fishing boat and made tons of money. There are also published materials for sale that boast of lucrative jobs in canneries and on fishing boats.

The reality is that for every success, there are many failures. A prospective crew member's chance for a profitable season hinges on careful assessment of job openings and close attention to details on any offer.

A crew member position can be hard to get. During harvest seasons, prospective crew members must walk the fishing docks to follow up on each word-of-mouth lead and to speak with the skipper personally. The travel and waiting for such an opportunity can be costly, both physically and monetarily. Crew members rarely leave good jobs, so only a small percentage of hopefuls find their berth this way.

Employers seek crew who:

- Are available to work the full season or contract period
- Are physically able to stand and work long hours and move heavy objects
- Get along well with others in remote and often wet and cold conditions
- Are ready for hard work, are not chronic complainers, and have a positive attitude
- Follow directions and obey safety rules

### Warnings

Commercial fishing is one of the most hazardous occupations in America. Reputable boat operators rarely have serious mishaps, nor do they lose good crew members through misunderstandings. Be wary of accepting a job on a vessel that has numerous crew vacancies during the harvest season. It's

a good idea to find out why the departed crew member(s) left.

### Earnings

Minimum wage laws do not apply to crew member jobs in the industry. However, certain federal and state laws about hiring people under age 18 do apply.

Wages are often based on a share or percentage of harvest earnings. Newcomer deckhand earnings range from 1.5 percent to 10 percent of the adjusted gross catch depending on location, type of fishery, and the worker's skills. Some vessels offer a daily rate from \$50 to \$100 instead of a percentage of the catch. Recent market conditions have caused some share rates to decline.

In addition to fishing, crew members are expected to work on their vessel and its associated gear without additional pay. The daily rate or a share or percentage of the catch is considered pay for all work performed. New crew members should obtain a signed work agreement or contract beforehand that clearly explains the pay and other entitlements.

### Additional costs

Many boats charge crew members for a share of operating expenses. These may include food, fuel, bait, and ice. A crew member can also expect to purchase specialized apparel such as:

- Wet weather gear: \$100 per set
- Rubber boots: \$40 to \$70 per pair
- Gloves: \$2 to \$12 per pair
- Wrist covers or sleeves: \$5 per set
- Sleeping bag: \$70 to \$200

The fishing vessel owner/operator should provide other gear required by the Coast Guard, such as a survival suit. Make sure the vessel has a good safety reputation.

Crew members supply their own commercial fishing licenses. In 2010, commercial fishing license fees are \$60

for a resident and \$200 for a nonresident. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game offers license information and purchasing at: [www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license](http://www.admin.adfg.state.ak.us/license).

### Accommodations

On smaller vessels, the crew will eat, relax, and sleep with very little privacy. Toilet facilities on some vessels can be nonexistent or somewhat exposed, while on others there is a shower and toilet for individual use. Ask about these facilities if privacy is important.

### Safety

Injury is possible in every aspect of a crew member's work, and getting to the nearest clinic or hospital is totally dependent on the weather and availability of special transportation. The wait can be hours, or even days. Before accepting a job, ask about the safety equipment and procedures aboard the intended vessel.

### Fishing vessels

Fishing vessels range from small skiffs of 20 feet to large factory trawlers of 300 feet or longer. The vessels may fish anywhere from near shore to 200 miles at sea. The larger river systems of the state also support skiff fisheries.

The size of the vessel has little bearing on the number of fishermen or deck crew required. For example, a 160-foot trawler can operate efficiently with five crew, which is about the same needed for a 58-foot purse seiner in the near-shore fishery.

Most of these vessels are based out of California, Oregon, and Washington, with a small number based in Alaska. These vessels are normally fully staffed before they depart.

Please use the ALEXsys site to search for jobs in the seafood industry: <http://alexsys.labor.state.ak.us/>.

Source: Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Employment Security Division



# Alaska's "Other" Manufacturing

## The 29 percent outside seafood processing

When taking the temperature of the national economy, we use the health of the manufacturing industry as an important bellwether. However, its effects on Alaska's economic climate are rarely examined, and for good reason. Manufacturing is a major player nationwide, but plays a smaller role in our state.

Despite 30 years of nonstop blows and the recent recession's near-knockout punch to the country's manufacturing sector, the industry still generates 12 percent of the nation's wealth (gross domestic product), and employs 9 percent of the country's wage and salary workforce.

Manufacturing makes up only 4 percent of Alaska's wage and salary employment and represents just 2 percent of our gross state product. And according to the most current economic census,

Alaska is home to the fewest manufacturing companies in the United States.

Seafood processing gets all of the attention when discussing manufacturing in Alaska, because it represents nearly three-quarters of the industry. (See Exhibit 1.) All the manufacturing companies that made the list of Alaska's 100 largest private-sector employers in 2009 were seafood processors. The remaining 29 percent of the industry, or "other manufacturing," deserves a detailed examination despite its diminutive size.

### Sector small but diverse

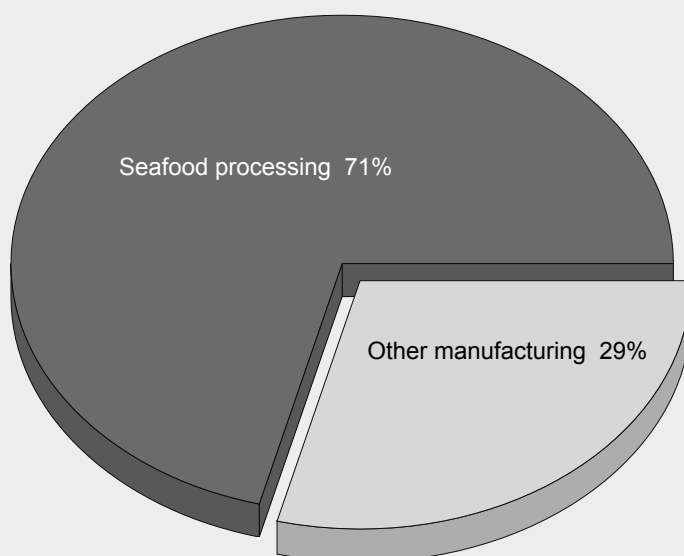
In 2009, there were 3,721 jobs in "other manufacturing" in Alaska, or a little over 1 percent of all the state's wage and salary employment. None of the narrowly defined subcategories generate more than 430 jobs, or 12 percent within "other manufacturing." (See Exhibit 2.)

Only transportation equipment, fabricated metal products, and refineries each create more than 400 jobs — and the remaining groupings quickly get smaller. (See Exhibit 3.) Even among the larger categories, employment is dispersed among an enormous number of employer units. For example, employment in the two largest categories — transportation equipment and fabricated metal products — is spread among 40 and 51 different employers, respectively.

In other words, Alaska's "other manufacturing" is small, the categories within it are small, and firm size is also small. This all adds up to a pocket-size sector that is amazingly diverse.

The other heavyweights in the rest of manufacturing include printers, wood product manufacturers, bakers, and brewers — but no

### 1 "Other" Manufacturing Employs Few Alaska, 2009



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

candlestick makers. Actually, a few of those might be hidden in the miscellaneous category. In addition, there are smaller producers of furniture, tents, clothing, chemicals, curios, plastics, electronics, knives, ulus, coffee, boats, signs, insulation, and a long list of other goods.

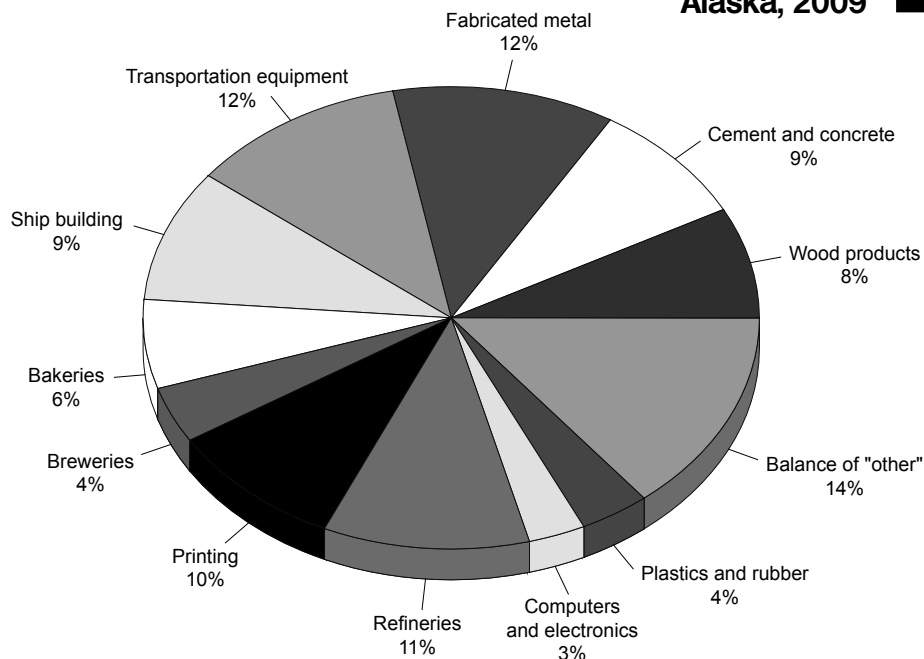
## Who and where are they?

Because a majority of these companies are small, few of them have a substantial statewide presence. In 2009, no individual company generated more than 200 jobs on an annual basis.

Exhibit 4 is a list of the 50 largest companies in this industry. There are a few high-profile players: one is Alaskan Brewing Company, whose beer has quenched the thirst of many for nearly 25 years. There are also the state's two largest refineries—Tesoro and Flint Hills—recognized around the state as the major producers of gasoline, diesel, heating oil, and jet fuel. Most of these products are consumed locally or they help fuel the giant fleet of international cargo jets that visit the state each day.

These companies are widely dispersed across Alaska. For example, the list shows four ship and boat builders, all prominent in their own coastal communities but less known statewide. The largest of these is Alaska Ship and Dry Dock of Ketchikan, and the smallest is Magone Marine Services in Dutch Harbor. All of these ship builders service the state's giant fishing fleet, but they also provide services to the ferry system, the oil patch, the visitor industry, and other industries.

## Manufacturing Minus Seafood Alaska, 2009 **2**



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

## Employment in the Rest of Manufacturing Alaska, 2009 **3**

	Employment	Payroll	Average Earnings	Units
All other manufacturing (minus seafood processing)	3,721	\$182,990,918	\$49,181	403
Wood products	285	\$11,551,993	\$40,557	27
Nonmetallic mineral products	328	\$17,478,304	\$53,328	29
Cement and concrete products	315	\$17,154,440	\$54,473	24
Primary metals	23	\$1,169,707	\$50,857	7
Fabricated metal products	428	\$22,158,248	\$51,802	51
Machinery	82	\$4,705,897	\$57,447	11
Computer and electronics	112	\$8,143,383	\$72,980	10
Electrical equipment and appliances	26	\$1,388,269	\$54,265	4
Transportation equipment	430	\$20,493,388	\$47,715	40
Ship and boat building	345	\$17,494,971	\$50,784	23
Furniture and related products	116	\$4,144,464	\$35,883	27
Miscellaneous	207	\$7,177,356	\$34,757	43
Bakeries and tortillas	225	\$6,900,218	\$30,702	15
Beverages and tobacco	182	\$5,723,552	\$31,448	18
Bottled water	16	\$452,105	\$27,539	3
Breweries	148	\$5,034,789	\$34,115	10
Textile product mills	74	\$2,310,855	\$31,123	10
Leather and allied products	5	\$60,401	\$13,178	3
Printing and related support	356	\$11,886,673	\$33,413	42
Petroleum and coal	410	\$43,402,116	\$105,967	10
Petroleum refineries	395	\$42,298,295	\$106,971	8
Chemicals	51	\$2,888,660	\$56,456	12
Plastics and rubber	140	\$6,128,783	\$43,803	11
Total manufacturing	12,868	\$474,776,697	\$36,896	561
Percent of total manufacturing	29%	39%	133%	72%
Percent of total employment	1.2%	1.2%	105.5%	1.8%
Total, all industries: 2009	320,265	\$14,933,881,341	\$46,630	21,986

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



## 4 The Top 50 “Other” Manufacturers Alaska, 2009

Rank	Firm Name	Employment	Business Activity	Headquarters or largest work site
1	Tesoro Company Alaska	100 to 249	Petroleum refinery	Nikiski
2	Flint Hill Resources	100 to 249	Petroleum refinery	Fairbanks
3	Alaska Ship and Dry Dock	100 to 249	Ship and boat building	Ketchikan
4	Builders Choice	100 to 249	Wood products	Anchorage
5	Anchorage Sand and Gravel	100 to 249	Construction sand and gravel mining	Anchorage
6	Interstate Brands (Sunshine Bakery)	100 to 249	Bakery	Anchorage
7	Siemens	50-99	Computer and electronics	Anchorage
8	Alaskan Brewing Company	50-99	Brewery	Juneau
9	Alaska Wildberry Products	50-99	Sugar and confectionary	Anchorage
10	STEELFAB	50-99	Metal fabrication	Anchorage
11	Petro Star	1-49	Petroleum refinery	Valdez
12	Unique Machine	1-49	Machine shop	Anchorage
13	Allen Marine	1-49	Ship and boat building	Sitka
14	Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling	1-49	Brewery	Fairbanks
15	Seward Ships Dry Docks	1-49	Ship and boat building	Seward
16	Alaska Sausage	1-49	Meat processing	Anchorage
17	GLM	1-49	Machine shop	Kenai
18	Capitol Glass/Northern Windows	1-49	Glass, windows, and door products	Anchorage
19	Greer Tank and Welding	1-49	Metal fabrication	Fairbanks
20	A T Publishing	1-49	Printing	Anchorage
21	Magone Marine Services	1-49	Ship and boat building	Dutch Harbor
22	Kinko's	1-49	Printing	Anchorage
23	Alaska Tent and Tarp	1-49	Textiles	Fairbanks
24	L'Aroma	1-49	Bakery	Anchorage
25	Alkan Shelter	1-49	Plastics	Fairbanks
26	Alaska Roteq	1-49	Metal fabrication	Wasilla
27	Equipment Source	1-49	Heating equipment	Fairbanks
28	Pip Printing	1-49	Printing	Anchorage
29	Alaska Serigraphics	1-49	Printing	Anchorage
30	Viking Lumber Company	1-49	Wood products	Craig
31	Klondike Concrete	1-49	Cement and concrete products	Anchorage
32	Harris Sand And Gravel	1-49	Cement and concrete products	Valdez
33	Great Harvest Bread Company	1-49	Bakery	Anchorage
34	Northland Wood Products	1-49	Wood products	Fairbanks
35	Dowland Bach	1-49	Mining and oil and gas field machinery	Anchorage
36	The Welding Shop	1-49	Metal fabrication	Fairbanks
37	Ketchikan Ready Mix and Quarry	1-49	Cement and concrete products	Ketchikan
38	Arctic Insulation	1-49	Insulation and foam products	Wasilla
39	Anchorage Printing	1-49	Printing	Anchorage
40	Warning Lites of Alaska	1-49	Signs	Anchorage
41	Sampson Steel Company	1-49	Metal fabrication	Anchorage
42	A T & S	1-49	Urethane and other foam products	Fairbanks
43	Delta Concrete Products	1-49	Cement and concrete products	Delta
44	Valley Block and Concrete	1-49	Cement and concrete products	Wasilla
45	Davis Block and Concrete	1-49	Cement and concrete products	Soldotna
46	Insulfoam	1-49	Insulation and foam products	Anchorage
47	Engineered Fire And Safety	1-49	Communications equipment	Anchorage
48	J R Heritage Construction	1-49	Commercial cabinet casework	Anchorage
49	AK Litho	1-49	Printing	Juneau
50	Glacier Sign and Lighting	1-49	Signs	Anchorage

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

In a related vein, there is a long list of metal fabricators and machine shops. Two of these companies, STEELFAB in Anchorage and Greer Tank of Fairbanks, fabricate products for construction contractors as well as the fishing, oil, and mining industries. Much of their work is custom, but some also mass-produce products like fuel storage tanks.

And then there's food, a product that doesn't automatically invoke the subject of manufacturing but plays a prominent role. When we include seafood processing, food production represents three-quarters of the state's manufacturing industry, versus 12 percent for the nation. At the top of the "foodies" list is Sunshine Bakery of Anchorage, a company well known for national brands like Wonder Bread. L'Aroma and Great Harvest Bread Company also made the top 50, but there are another 12 bakeries beyond this roll call that show up as employers in Alaska.

Three other major players in the food business are Alaska Wildberry Products of Anchorage and Homer, Silver Gulch Brewing of Fairbanks, and Alaska Sausage of Anchorage. They cater to locals as well as visitors, and they ship their products around the world. Many of these manufac-

## Resident and Nonresident Workers and Earnings “Other Manufacturing,” Alaska, 2008

# 5

Industry	Resident workers	Nonresident workers	Percent nonresident	Resident wages	Nonresident wages	Percent nonresident	Resident earnings per qtr.	Nonresident earnings per qtr.
<b>Manufacturing</b>								
Food	5,897	15,691	72.7%	\$117,913,911	\$188,013,010	61.5%	\$6,274	\$5,808
Beverages and tobacco	194	55	22.1%	\$4,950,867	\$542,745	9.9%	\$7,724	\$4,342
Textiles	7	ND	ND	\$114,521	ND	ND	\$4,772	ND
Textile products	88	11	11.1%	\$2,309,501	\$188,836	7.6%	\$7,263	\$7,868
Apparel	10	ND	ND	\$157,151	ND	ND	\$5,069	ND
Leather and allied products	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Wood products	497	97	16.3%	\$13,770,728	\$1,587,752	10.3%	\$8,407	\$6,785
Paper	7	ND	ND	\$243,855	ND	ND	\$9,032	ND
Printing and related support	401	57	12.4%	\$12,156,101	\$811,090	6.3%	\$8,537	\$6,008
Petroleum and coal	691	30	4.2%	\$53,857,421	\$619,109	1.1%	\$20,714	\$9,525
Chemicals	144	10	6.5%	\$7,613,558	\$315,873	4.0%	\$17,583	\$15,794
Plastics and rubber	156	21	11.9%	\$5,303,882	\$367,807	6.5%	\$9,877	\$7,826
Nonmetallic minerals	286	60	17.3%	\$10,226,749	\$1,034,613	9.2%	\$10,414	\$7,086
Primary metals	39	7	15.2%	\$1,446,563	\$73,285	4.8%	\$11,042	\$4,580
Fabricated metal products	509	82	13.9%	\$22,647,234	\$1,354,070	5.6%	\$12,745	\$7,965
Machinery	74	8	9.8%	\$4,001,262	\$240,933	5.7%	\$14,603	\$10,475
Computer and electronics	107	8	7.0%	\$7,055,229	\$313,782	4.3%	\$17,124	\$15,689
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components	30	ND	ND	\$1,578,286	ND	ND	\$14,092	ND
Transportation equipment	401	188	31.9%	\$12,591,460	\$3,563,805	22.1%	\$9,425	\$8,526
Furniture and related products	145	25	14.7%	\$4,507,290	\$343,073	7.1%	\$9,015	\$6,353
Miscellaneous	245	32	11.6%	\$7,329,143	\$438,555	5.6%	\$8,674	\$6,265
Total private sector	255,129	74,435	22.6%	\$9,007,138,038	\$1,696,847,263	15.7%	\$10,438	\$10,162
Local government	46,548	3,282	6.6%	\$1,465,682,598	\$49,459,058	3.3%	\$9,217	\$7,302
State government	25,856	1,902	6.9%	\$1,106,999,850	\$35,470,154	3.1%	\$11,705	\$8,303
Total private and government	327,533	79,619	19.6%	\$11,579,820,486	\$1,781,776,475	13.3%	\$10,372	\$10,010

ND: Not disclosable

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

turers are major participants in the state’s visitor industry, providing local flavor that tourists often hunger for.

## The demise of wood products

Exhibit 4 shows just three wood product manufacturers. The largest is Builders Choice of Anchorage: a manufacturer of modular homes, trusses, and wall panels. The weak showing of wood is historically significant, because wood was once a powerhouse in Alaska’s economy. In 1990, there were four wood product manufacturers that made the list of 100 largest private-sector employers in the state — and they were all in Southeast Alaska. That year, the Ketchikan Pulp Company was the largest manufacturing employer in the state with 903 employees, and it was also the ninth-largest

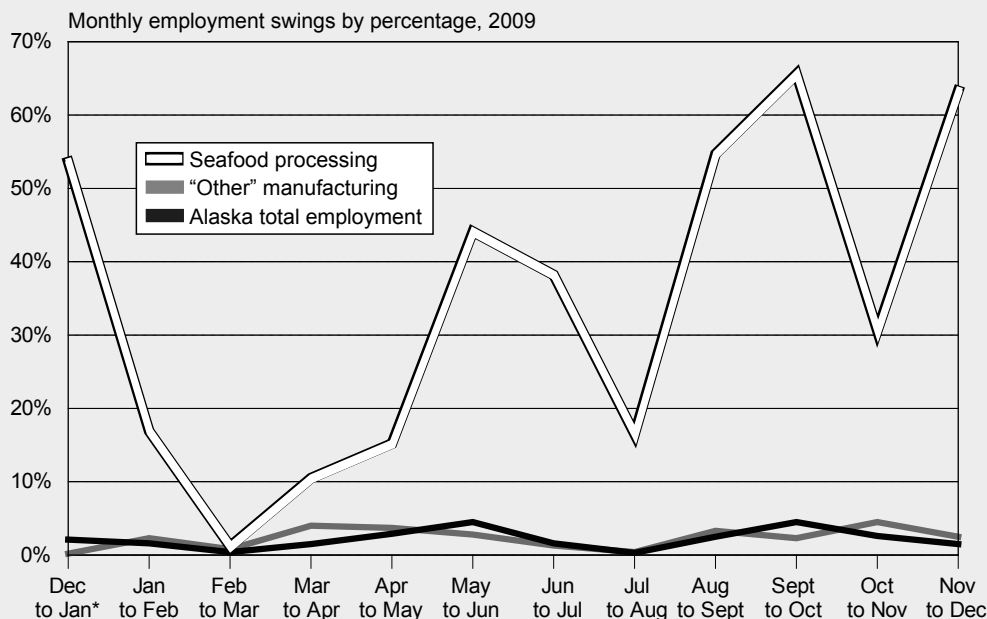
overall private sector employer. The Ketchikan pulp mill closed in 1997. And in 2009, no wood manufacturer even made the list. For more on the decline of the timber industry, see the October 2010 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*.

## Wages are decent

The average annual earnings for the “other manufacturers” in 2009 were \$49,181, or more than \$12,000 higher than overall manufacturing wages and 5 percent above earnings across all industries. (See Exhibit 3.) The reason is the exclusion of seafood processing’s lower average annual earnings of \$31,898.

The earnings for the rest of manufacturing vary widely, from a high of \$106,971 for refineries to a

## 6 “Other” Manufacturing Employs Few Alaska, 2009



\*Represents December 2008 to January 2009. The rest are 2009 monthly changes.

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

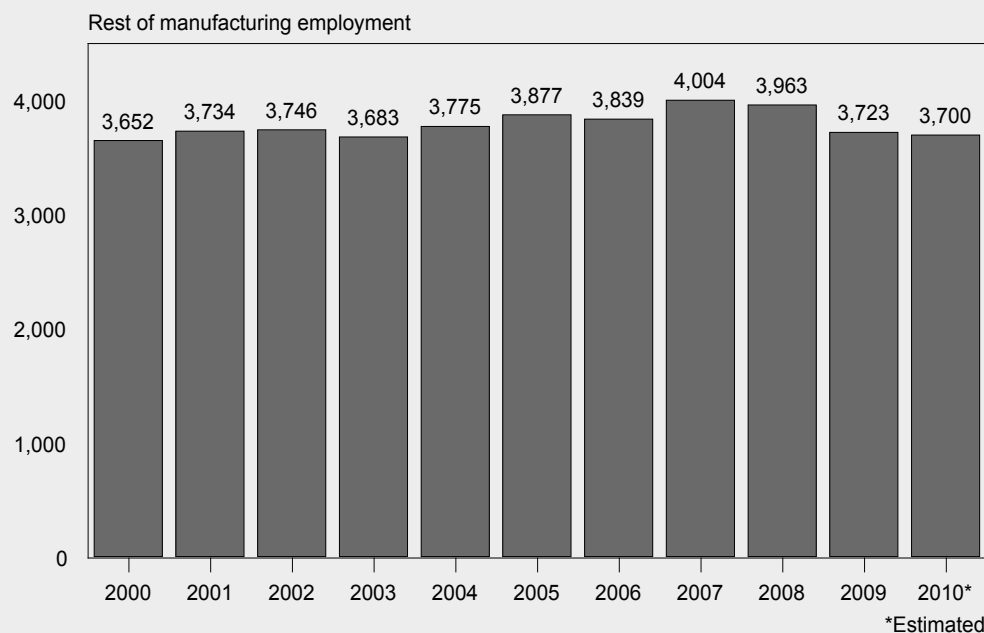
low of \$27,539 for water bottlers.

## Employs residents

Alaska’s manufacturing industry employs more nonresidents as a percentage of the workforce than any other industry. In 2008, over 64 percent of Alaska’s manufacturing workers were from out-of-state, mostly because three-quarters of seafood workers were nonresidents. This is because seafood processing is highly seasonal, but the “rest” of manufacturing is not. When we exclude seafood workers, the residency picture changes dramatically. (See Exhibits 5 and 6.) In that case, the category with the highest percentage of nonresidents was transportation equipment at 32 percent, and lowest was refineries at just 4 percent. All other manufacturing categories fell somewhere in between.

Over the past decade, employment in Alaska’s “other” manufacturing hasn’t changed much — a different story from the huge losses in the national industry. (See Exhibit 7.) In part, the recent U.S. recession had a muted effect on Alaska. Also, a big piece of Alaska’s manufacturing industry exists to serve locals and their industries, and both have been relatively stable over the last decade. This has kept Alaska’s manufacturers on a more even keel than their national counterparts.

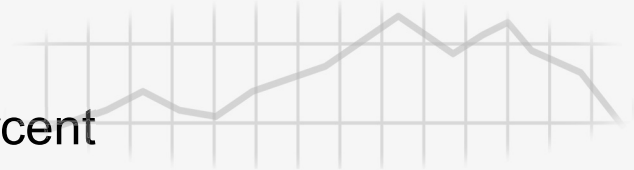
## 7 Employment Steady the Past Decade Alaska, 2000 to 2009



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

# Employment Scene

## Unemployment rate at 7.8 percent



**A**laska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September inched up slightly, to 7.8 percent. August's revised rate did not change, staying at 7.7 percent.

The comparable national jobless rate for September was 9.6 percent, unchanged from August. The unemployment rate in Alaska has recovered a bit faster than it has nationwide. Exactly a year ago, the U.S. rate was 9.8 percent, compared to 8.3 percent for Alaska. September was also the 23rd consecutive month that Alaska's rate was lower.

### Unemployment rises in most areas

Regional unemployment rates not seasonally adjusted increased slightly in September. This is typical as fishing and tourism drop off considerably and construction work tapers down. These unemployment numbers will continue to rise for the next five to six months as winter sets in.

In nearly all of the regions, unemployment rates came in slightly below year-ago levels. For example, Southeast's unemployment rate in September was 6.2 percent, versus 6.7 percent last year. The Northern region was the only area where

the jobless rate came in three-tenths of a percent higher than a year ago, possibly because the oil industry has slowed.

### Lowest rates will soon change

In September, like August, the areas with both the highest and lowest unemployment rates were unchanged. The Bristol Bay Borough and Skagway had the lowest unemployment rates, and the numbers were highest in the Wade Hampton and Bethel census areas. However, some of these rankings will change with the onset of winter, and areas with higher rates will have more company.

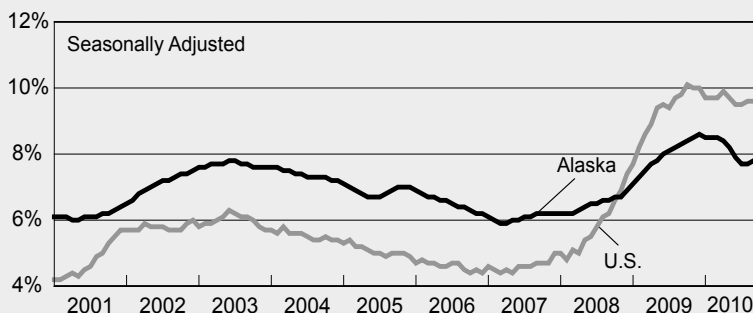
### A few more labor force facts

When you filled out your forms for the 2010 decennial census, you may have noticed they were short and there were no questions about the labor force, housing, income, and other past subjects. This is because the long form was eliminated and replaced by the American Community Survey (ACS), which is collecting this information in an ongoing survey. ACS recently released 2009 data, and here are a few facts about Alaska's labor force and how we ranked nationwide.

Alaska's workforce participation typically ranks above average. For example, Alaska came in 20th for the percentage of people aged 16 to 64 who are working, with 76.5 percent of this group tied to the labor force versus 75.2 percent for the nation. Among women, 66.7 percent in Alaska were active, compared to 59.8 percent in the rest of the nation. Female earnings in Alaska were \$39,017, ranked ninth-highest in the country but equaling only 66 percent of their male counterparts (ranked sixth in the U.S.).

For more details on ACS, visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

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



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

## 2 Statewide Employment Nonfarm wage and salary

	Preliminary	Revised		Year-Over-Year Change		
	9/10	8/10	9/09	9/09	90% Confidence Interval	
<b>Alaska</b>						
<b>Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary<sup>1</sup></b>	335,100	346,500	334,400	700	-6,683	8,083
Goods-Producing <sup>2</sup>	50,700	60,700	48,100	2,600	-284	5,484
Service-Providing <sup>3</sup>	284,400	285,800	286,300	-1,900	-	-
<b>Mining and Logging</b>	17,900	17,900	15,000	2,900	2,107	3,693
Mining	17,400	17,500	14,700	2,700	-	-
Oil and Gas	11,700	12,000	12,400	-700	-	-
<b>Construction</b>	18,800	20,100	18,700	100	-2,483	2,683
<b>Manufacturing</b>	14,000	22,700	14,400	-400	-1,394	594
Seafood Processing	10,300	18,300	10,600	-300	-	-
<b>Trade, Transportation, Utilities</b>	64,600	67,500	66,100	-1,500	-3,872	872
Wholesale Trade	6,700	6,900	6,400	300	-256	856
Retail Trade	36,300	37,800	36,700	-400	-2,428	1,628
Food and Beverage Stores	6,400	6,700	6,400	0	-	-
General Merchandise Stores	10,100	10,500	10,200	-100	-	-
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	21,600	22,800	23,000	-1,400	-2,438	-362
Air Transportation	5,300	5,600	6,200	-900	-	-
Truck Transportation	3,100	3,300	3,200	-100	-	-
<b>Information</b>	6,400	6,400	6,500	-100	-681	481
Telecommunications	4,100	4,200	4,300	-200	-	-
<b>Financial Activities</b>	13,800	14,000	14,900	-1,100	-3,043	843
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	25,500	25,600	26,900	-1,400	-3,193	393
<b>Educational<sup>4</sup> and Health Services</b>	40,700	40,000	39,500	1,200	-68	2,468
Health Care	29,100	28,700	28,400	700	-	-
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	35,500	39,800	35,200	300	-1,737	2,337
Accommodations	9,800	11,700	9,700	100	-	-
Food Services and Drinking Places	20,600	22,500	20,400	200	-	-
<b>Other Services</b>	11,300	11,100	11,500	-200	-3,376	2,976
<b>Government</b>	86,600	81,400	85,700	900	-	-
Federal Government <sup>5</sup>	17,500	18,300	17,400	100	-	-
State Government	26,600	24,700	26,000	600	-	-
State Government Education <sup>6</sup>	8,100	5,900	7,600	500	-	-
Local Government	42,500	38,400	42,300	200	-	-
Local Government Education <sup>7</sup>	24,400	19,500	23,600	800	-	-
Tribal Government	3,800	3,900	3,700	100	-	-

## 4 Regional Employment Nonfarm wage and salary

	Preliminary	Revised		Changes from		Percent Change	
	9/10	8/10	9/09	8/10	9/09	8/10	9/09
Anch/Mat-Su	175,900	174,100	174,700	1,800	1,200	1.0%	0.7%
Anchorage	154,150	153,200	153,550	950	600	0.6%	0.4%
Gulf Coast	31,800	34,400	32,000	-2,600	-200	-7.6%	-0.6%
Interior	48,550	48,200	48,050	350	500	0.7%	1.0%
Fairbanks <sup>8</sup>	39,100	39,100	39,800	0	-700	0.0%	-1.8%
Northern	19,550	19,800	20,100	-250	-550	-1.3%	-2.7%
Southeast	39,200	42,100	39,200	-2,900	0	-6.9%	0.0%
Southwest	20,250	23,250	20,150	-3,000	100	-12.9%	0.5%

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

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Private education only

<sup>5</sup> Excludes uniformed military

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

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

<sup>8</sup> Fairbanks North Star Borough

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

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

## 3 Unemployment Rates Borough and census area

	Prelim.	Revised	
	09/10	08/10	09/09
<b>SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>			
<b>United States</b>	9.6	9.6	9.8
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	7.8	7.7	8.3
<b>NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</b>			
<b>United States</b>	9.2	9.5	9.5
<b>Alaska Statewide</b>	7.3	7.0	7.7
<b>Anchorage/Mat-Su Region</b>	7.0	6.7	7.3
Municipality of Anchorage	6.8	6.5	7.0
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	8.0	7.7	8.7
<b>Gulf Coast Region</b>	8.1	7.3	8.3
Kenai Peninsula Borough	9.0	8.1	9.3
Kodiak Island Borough	5.7	5.7	6.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	6.5	5.4	6.4
<b>Interior Region</b>	6.8	6.7	7.2
Denali Borough	4.0	3.4	4.1
Fairbanks North Star Borough	6.5	6.3	6.8
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7.3	8.5	8.3
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	13.0	13.2	13.7
<b>Northern Region</b>	10.0	10.2	9.7
Nome Census Area	12.7	14.0	12.6
North Slope Borough	5.6	5.4	5.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	13.7	13.1	12.9
<b>Southeast Region</b>	6.2	5.9	6.7
Haines Borough	4.9	4.2	5.5
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area <sup>1</sup>	9.7	9.0	8.7
Juneau, City and Borough of	5.4	5.3	5.9
Ketchikan Gateway Borough <sup>1</sup>	6.0	5.3	5.9
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA <sup>1</sup>	12.9	12.8	14.1
Sitka, City and Borough of	5.5	5.1	5.9
Skagway, Municipality of <sup>1</sup>	3.8	2.5	5.6
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area <sup>1</sup>	7.8	6.6	8.8
Yakutat, City and Borough of	6.7	7.3	8.9
<b>Southwest Region</b>	11.7	10.6	12.2
Aleutians East Borough	7.8	6.0	9.1
Aleutians West Census Area	7.6	4.8	9.8
Bethel Census Area	14.8	14.9	14.2
Bristol Bay Borough	2.9	1.8	3.0
Dillingham Census Area	8.5	7.0	9.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	5.5	5.7	6.2
Wade Hampton Census Area	18.9	20.4	19.4

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

### 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 state-wide wage and salary employment estimates. That change has resulted in increased monthly volatility in the wage and salary estimates for many states, including Alaska. Therefore, one should be very 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 source of information for trends analysis (<http://labor.alaska.gov/qcew.htm>).

For more current state and regional employment and unemployment data, visit our Web site: [laborstats.alaska.gov](http://laborstats.alaska.gov)



# Employer Resources

## Hire a veteran in November

For many years, Alaska and the nation have honored veterans during the month of November. Veterans Day, observed on November 11, is the anniversary of the World War I armistice that ended hostilities on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Alaska has also instituted “Hire a Veteran Month” in November, beginning with a proclamation by the governor and led by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

The department will host its annual Alaska Veterans’ Job Fair on November 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Muldoon Job Center, 1251 Muldoon Road in Anchorage. More than 65 employers and education, training, and apprenticeship providers are expected to participate with close to 1,000 job seekers attending.

Alaska’s Jobs for Veterans Program emphasizes service priority for veterans and others who are eligible through our online services and at all job centers. The

program helps connect veterans with their representatives and potential employers. Veterans’ representatives are located in the Job Centers in Anchorage, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, and Mat-Su.

The latest information available from the Veterans Administration and the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that Alaska is home to nearly 77,000 veterans — more than 46,000 work in the state as of 2009 (not seasonally adjusted). During state fiscal year 2010, our job centers served more than 14,269 veterans, including 960 transitioning service members and 1,643 who recently separated from service.

Employers who would like to hire veterans should contact their nearest Alaska Job Center. For more information about the veteran employment and training program, go to: <http://www.jobs.alaska.gov/veterans/>

To find the nearest job center, visit: <http://www.jobs.alaska.gov/> and click on “Alaska Job Centers” on the left, or call (877) 724-2539.

## A Safety Minute

### Reduce seafood processing injuries

The seafood processing industry has well over 100 shore-based plants operating throughout Alaska. Historically, these work sites have had high accident and injury rates. To reduce these rates, a growing number of industry employers are requesting free and non-punitive assistance from the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health (AKOSH), Consultation and Training section of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

In recent years, companies have entered into a partnership with AKOSH to develop safety and health programs and workplace strategies. These relationships have benefitted the seafood processing industry by reducing the number of accidents, injuries, illnesses, and “bottom line” costs, which furthers the goal of a safer workplace.

The Department of Labor recognizes the achievements of these proactive facilities through the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) and the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) designations. These on-site consultation programs provide incentives and recognition for employers who operate exemplary safety and health management systems. Trident Seafoods, Unisea, and Island Seafoods have qualified at certain locations and achieved tremendous results in reduced accidents, associated costs, and increased productivity.

Employers are responsible for the safety and health of the men and women working in their facilities. If you are concerned about your employees’ well-being and interested in improving productivity and reducing operating costs, it’s in your company’s interest to schedule a free on-site visit. For further assistance, contact the AKOSH Consultation and Training section at (907) 269-4955 or (800) 656-4972.