ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

NOVEMBER 2007

Alaska's Fishermen

They don't just fish for a living

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Remote and rich in resources and history

Employment Scene
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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Sarah Palin, Governor
Commissioner Click Bishop

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& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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Cover: A seiner and gillnetter near Nelson Lagoon, Alaska. Photo by Chris Arend Courtesy of Aleutians East Borough

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Alaska's Fishing Industry – A Jewel in Our Crown

By Governor Sarah Palin

Alaska fisheries – sport, commercial and subsistence – in the ocean and in freshwater, are the best-managed, most sustainable in the world. Fisheries managers work hard every day, making necessary adjustments in season, to ensure that enough fish make it upstream to spawn, and manage for abundant harvests for all user groups.

The importance of Alaska's seafood industry is widely recognized. The four billion pounds of seafood harvested in 2006 were worth $1.4 billion to commercial fishermen, the highest value since 1999. Last year Alaska's seafood exports topped $2 billion for the first time. That's an additional $333 million in export value in just two years. Including all seafood harvesting and processing, Alaska's commercial fishing industry is one of the largest private-sector employers in the state. The industry accounts for more than 50 percent of basic private-sector employment in many of our coastal communities. The importance of the commercial fishing industry to our state is undeniable.

Once it's caught, seafood continues to create jobs and economic opportunity. It is processed, marketed and shipped to locations worldwide. The seafood industry creates thousands of processing jobs as well as indirect employment in support industries.

Beside commercial fisheries, our fish bring tremendous value to Alaska's economy and way of life. Every year, thousands of people travel to Alaska, and many come mainly to enjoy our world-class sport fishing. These visitors support numerous local businesses, contribute to the economy and go home with not only fish, but wonderful memories of their experience.

Many Alaskans rely on our fisheries for subsistence, which has been elemental to Alaska Natives and their cultures for thousands of years. It also has become a way of life for many non-Natives in Alaska. Fish comprise 60 percent of subsistence foods taken each year and 95 percent of rural households consume subsistence-caught fish. More than just a food source, this tradition allows a love of fishing to be passed from one generation to the next.

With careful management, our fisheries are an infinitely renewable resource that can provide economic opportunities for generations to come.

Challenges face us, certainly. We need to continue to aggressively market our products against increasing global competition. However, growing consumer awareness of food safety and sustainability issues have led to increased demand for our products, with consumers willing to pay a premium for wild Alaskan seafood.

While I cannot overstate the contribution of fishing to the economy of our coastal communities, it is also an invaluable part of the culture of Alaska. We have a stellar international reputation for responsible management. And we're going to continue to put the health of the resource first so we can celebrate the contribution of fishing far into the future.

Alaska's Fishermen

By Andrew Wink and Jeff Hadland, Economists
and Brian Laurent, Research Analyst

They don't just fish for a living

Many people hold more than one job during the year. Given the often seasonal nature of the work and recent fluctuations in resource prices, it's not surprising that Alaska's fishermen are no different than other workers.

Based on an analysis of active fishing permit holders and their adult crew members,[1] more than half of all resident Alaska fishermen[2] relied on a wage and salary job[3] in addition to their fish harvesting work to earn a living in 2006. (See Exhibit 1.) That's a higher rate of multiple job holding than for Alaska wage and salary workers in general, where only about 32 percent held multiple jobs in 2006.

Although social security number information used to match fishermen to administrative records, including unemployment insurance wage records, wasn't available for all fishermen, 90.8 percent of the permit holders and 65.9 percent of the crew members could be identified. Since worker identification information is incomplete, total employment and wage counts will understate the actual number of wage and salary jobs fishermen had in 2006. However, given the large percentage of matches, average earnings and rates of wage and salary employment for fishermen should accurately reflect reality.

The wage and salary employment and earnings of fishermen were determined by matching crew license and fish ticket data (landing records taken whenever seafood is landed in or near Alaska) with Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development unemployment insurance wage records. Using this information, total earnings from fishing employment, and wage and salary employment, were calculated, along with the share of earnings derived from wage and salary employment by fishery, region and the demographic characteristics of the fishermen.

Permit holders and crew in 2006 earned $126.5 million from their wage and salary employment. Since some fishing seasons are so short, many fishermen who fish those permits tend to work regular wage and salary jobs most of the year and supplement their income with a fishing operation. Other fishermen may work multiple seasons, or work in longer-running fisheries and are less likely to supplement their fishing income with a wage and salary job on the side.

Permit holders

There were about 7,000 active fishing permit holders in Alaska in 2006 and at least 2,876 of those had Alaska wage and salary employment in 2006 in addition to their fish harvesting jobs. (See Exhibit 1.) For those permit holders with social security number information, gross fisheries earnings exceeded $285 million in that same period, while wage and salary earnings were $71.5 million. (See Exhibit 2.)

Forty-five percent of those permit holders who could be tracked had some wage and salary

[1] Going forward, "crew" and "crew members" are synonymous with "adult crew members," since only crew ages 18 and older were considered in this article's analysis.

[2] "Fishermen," unless stated otherwise, is used throughout this article to refer to active fishing permit holders and their crew. Also throughout this article, all references to permit holders, crew members and jobs – wage and salary jobs and fish harvesting jobs – are only to Alaska residents and Alaska jobs.

[3] Data for wage and salary jobs in this article come from reports employers are required to file under state unemployment insurance laws. Some wage and salary workers are not covered by unemployment insurance, including work-study students, full-commissioned sales workers, private railroad workers and elected and appointed officials. Because they don't receive a wage or salary, fishermen and self-employed workers are also not included. Federal workers are covered by federal unemployment insurance and aren't included in Alaska's wage records; therefore, they aren't part of this article's analysis.

employment in 2006. (See Exhibit 3.) For permit holders who had no reported wage and salary employment, average gross earnings from fishing were nearly $65,000. Permit holders with wage and salary jobs had average gross earnings of $20,997 from fishing, while their wage and salary earnings contributed on average an additional $24,872.

So, for permit holders with some non-fishing employment, their wage and salary pay exceeded their gross earnings from fishing; that pay represented more than 54 percent of their combined income. And more than 60 percent of permit holders with wage and salary employment earned more in their wage and salary job than they grossed with their fishing operations.

The comparison is telling, even though gross fishing revenue isn't directly comparable to wage and salary income, and it's calculated before accounting for crew shares, fuel costs, permit fees, insurance, and all the other costs that go into a commercial fishing operation.

Permit holders with some non-fishing employment were likely to work year-round. In 2006, 54.5 percent of those with some wage and salary earnings were employed in all four quarters. More than 60 percent of the permit holders with second jobs made more than $10,000 in wage and salary earnings in 2006. (See Exhibit 4.)

Older permit holders were less likely to have a second job. The average age of those with wage and salary employment was 44.0, while those who fished exclusively had an average age of 48.3. (See Exhibit 5.)

When pursuing a second job, permit holders were most often found in jobs in the educational[4] and health services, government, and trade, transportation and utilities industry sectors. (See Exhibit 6.)

[4] Private education only

A Breakdown of Permit Holders and Crew
Alaska, 2006

1

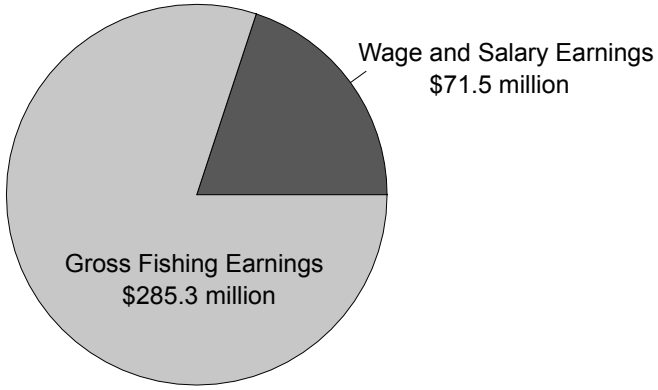
	Permit Holders	Adult Crew	Total
Total	6,981	8,385	15,366
Total with social security numbers	6,337	5,525	11,862
Percentage of total with social security numbers	90.8%	65.9%	77.2%
Total employed in wage and salary jobs	2,876	3,354	6,230
Percentage employed in wage and salary jobs[1]	45.4%	60.7%	52.5%
Total earnings from wage and salary jobs[1]	$71,532,960	$54,968,838	$126,501,798
Average wage and salary earnings	$24,872	$16,389	$20,305
Total gross earnings from fishing	$285,269,363	–	–
Total gross earnings from fishing for those with wage and salary employment	$60,328,657	–	–

Notes: All references to permit holders and crew members in this article are to Alaska residents, according to Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend records for the years 1993 to 2006.
A hyphen (–) means not applicable.

[1] For fishermen with SSN identifiers

Fishing and Wage and Salary Jobs
Total earnings, Alaska, 2006

2

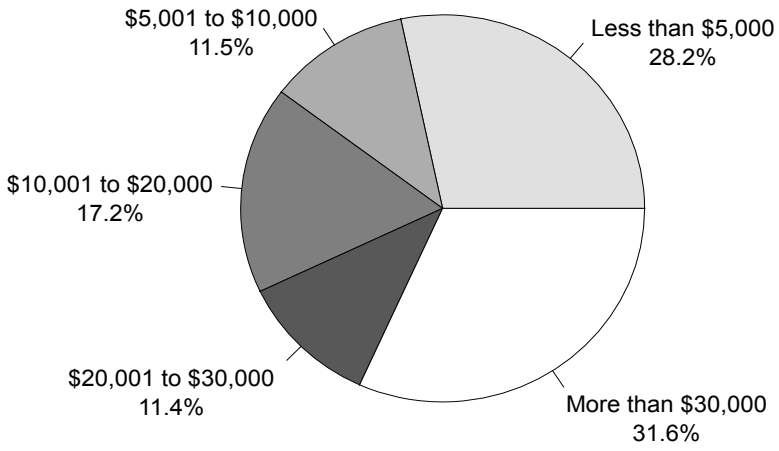


Wage and Salary Jobs
Permit holders, Alaska, 2006

3

Sources for exhibits 1, 2 and 3: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

4 Wage and Salary Earnings
Permit holders, Alaska, 2006



Crew

Alaska had close to 8,400 crew members who fished in 2006. In general, it was more difficult to track the wage and salary earnings of the crew members than the permit holders since more than a third of the crew had missing social security numbers. Even so, matches were made for 5,525 crew members and their wage and salary employment was tracked. (See Exhibit 1.)

The crew members tended to be younger and more likely to have had wage and salary employment than permit holders. More than 3,300 crew members earned roughly $55 million in wage and salary employment in 2006, an average of $16,389. Forty-one percent of those workers were employed in wage and salary jobs in all four quarters. Crew members were more likely than permit holders to have a job outside fishing, as 60.7 percent had wage and salary jobs that year. (See Exhibit 7.)

5 Ages of Permit Holders and Crew
With and without wage and salary jobs, Alaska, 2006

	Ages					
	With Wage and Salary Jobs		Without Wage and Salary Jobs		Overall	
	Average	Median	Average	Median	Average	Median
Permit Holders	44.0	45.0	48.3	50.0	46.4	47.0
Adult Crew	33.6	31.0	36.5	34.0	34.7	32.0

6 Wage and Salary Jobs, by Industry
Commercial fishermen, Alaska, 2006

	Permit Holders with Wage and Salary Jobs		Adult Crew Members with Wage and Salary Jobs	
Industry	**Count**	**Percentage of Total**	**Count**	**Percentage of Total**
Natural Resources and Mining	110	3.8%	129	3.8%
Construction	338	11.8%	397	11.8%
Manufacturing	94	3.3%	252	7.5%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	533	18.5%	761	22.7%
Information	37	1.3%	25	0.7%
Financial Activities	194	6.7%	155	4.6%
Professional and Business Services	107	3.7%	199	5.9%
Educational[1] and Health Services	641	22.3%	519	15.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	85	3.0%	289	8.6%
Other Services	112	3.9%	114	3.4%
Government[2]	623	21.7%	512	15.3%
Unknown Industry	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
Total	2,876	100.0%	3,354	100.0%
Not Employed in a Wage and Salary Job	3,461	n/a	2,171	n/a

[1] Private education only

[2] Includes public school systems and the University of Alaska, but excludes the uniformed military

Sources for Exhibits 4, 5 and 6: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

A look at fishermen-combined data for permit holders and crew

In total, for fishermen with wage and salary jobs, nearly half – 47.3 percent – worked in non-fishing jobs during each quarter in 2006. (See Exhibit 8.) For those workers, their wage and salary job was often their primary job; fishing just added extra income.

In recent years, slightly fewer permit holders have had jobs outside fishing and instead have relied on fishing as their sole source of income. The percentage of crew members working in outside jobs since 2000 has varied from 59.9 percent to 62.9 percent, while the percentage of permit holders employed in outside jobs has been between 45.4 percent (the level in 2005 and 2006) and 50.0 percent. (See Exhibit 9.)

Permit holders with multiple jobs: their gear type

Gear type and capitalization affect whether fishermen hold other jobs. Permit holders who operated boats requiring less capital were more likely to have other jobs than those permit holders who operated larger boats, but not always. (See Exhibit 10.)

The gear types with permit holders that had the highest percentages of non-fishing jobs in 2006 were set gillnet (63.7 percent), hand troll (55.0 percent), drift gillnet (41.8 percent) and longline (36.0 percent). The set gillnet and hand troll gear, for instance, are for fisheries that have short seasons and require less capital.

On the other hand, otter trawl (12.2 percent), power troll (18.3 percent), purse seine (20.6 percent) and pot gear (26.4 percent) permit holders possessed the lowest percentages of wage and salary participation. Pot gear, for instance, is used mostly for the crab fisheries that have short seasons and require a lot of capital.

Regional differences

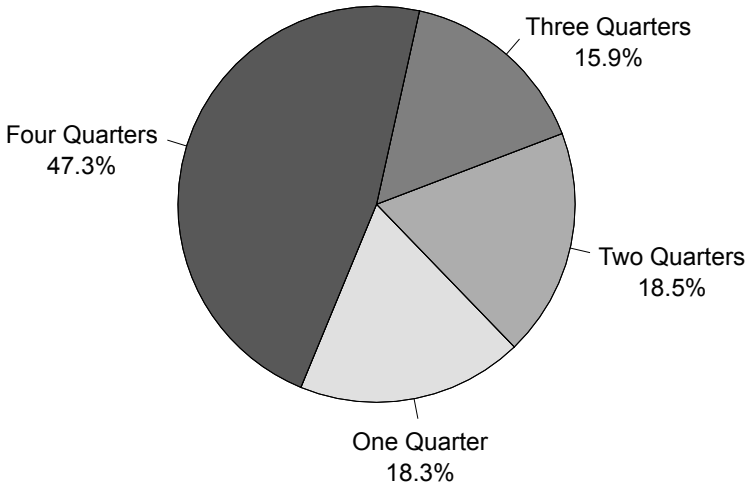
The permit holders who fished in the Yukon Delta and Northern regions were the least likely to depend solely on fishing income in 2006. (See Exhibit 11.) About three-fourths of the permit holders who fished in the Yukon Delta and two-thirds of their counterparts in the Northern region worked in wage and salary jobs. Interestingly, those who didn't work another job and those who did had strikingly similar average gross earnings from fishing.

However, the wages earned in wage and salary employment for the permit holders who fished in the Yukon Delta and Northern regions in 2006 created quite an income disparity in both regions between those with second jobs and those without them. Generally, commercial fishing plays a supplementary role in the Yukon Delta and Northern regions, and seafood resources, while sometimes harvested for sale, are primarily for subsistence.

Wage and Salary Jobs 7
Crew Employed, Alaska, 2006

Time Fishermen Spend in Other Jobs 8
Alaska, 2006

The number of quarters that permit holders and crew worked in wage and salary employment in 2006



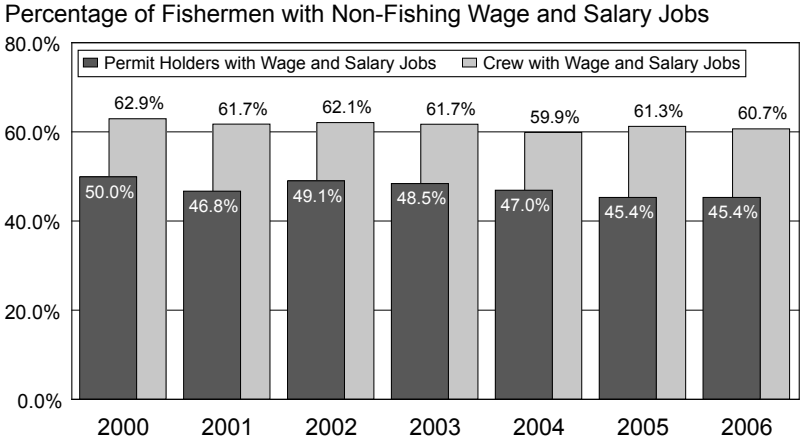
Sources for Exhibits 7 and 8: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Similarly, permit holders who fished in the Southcentral and Bristol Bay regions and worked in wage and salary employment in 2006 earned more money with their combined fishing and non-fishing employment compared to those who only fished. The difference between permit holders in these two regions compared to those who fished in the Yukon Delta and Northern regions, however, is that those who relied only on fishing in Southcentral and Bristol Bay made two-thirds more in gross

fishing earnings on average than those who had other employment.

Gross fisheries earnings for permit holders without wage and salary jobs who fished in the remaining three regions in 2006 – Southeast, the Aleutians and Pribilof Islands, and Kodiak – were significantly higher than earnings for those with wage and salary employment. Not even the wages from non-fishing employment made up for the overall earnings difference between the two groups. It's not surprising then, that when looking at the three regions as a group, less than 30 percent of the permit holders had wage and salary jobs in 2006.

9 Fishermen in Wage and Salary Jobs
Alaska, 2000 to 2006



Species fished

Marked differences in average earnings and the percentage of permit holders who had wage and salary employment in 2006 are evident not only between regions, but also between the species fished. Including wage and salary earnings, herring and miscellaneous shellfish permit holders with non-fishing employment had higher total earnings than those permit holders who just fished. The wage and salary earnings for the permit holders in both fisheries more than compensated for the higher gross fishing earnings of those without wage and salary jobs. (See Exhibit 12.)

Permit holders in the remaining four species[5] – crab, groundfish, sablefish and salmon – who didn't work in a wage and salary job in 2006 earned more overall than those who did, even when taking into account the additional wages from non-fishing employment. Wage and salary crab fishermen, in particular, made just over half of the average total earnings of those fishermen who only fished crab. It's important to keep in mind though that this article uses gross fishing earnings as a proxy for wages, so a permit holder's costs (crew shares, fuel, permit fees, etc.) are not considered.

Nearly three-fourths of all identifiable resident permit holders fished salmon. Of all the permit

[5] Halibut permit holders weren't included in this analysis due to incomplete 2006 earnings data.

10 Permit Holders in Wage and Salary Jobs, By Gear Type
Alaska, 2006

	Permit Holders						
Selected gear type	Number with a SSN match	Number with wage and salary jobs	Percentage with wage and salary jobs	Average gross fishing earnings for those without wage and salary jobs	Average gross fishing earnings for those with wage and salary jobs	Average wage and salary earnings for those with wage and salary jobs	Average total earnings for those with wage and salary jobs
Drift gillnet	1,450	606	41.8%	$51,237	$40,603	$29,284	$69,887
Hand troll	311	171	55.0%	$7,350	$4,151	$27,568	$31,719
Longline vessels	917	330	36.0%	$65,573	$6,856	$30,887	$37,743
Otter trawl	41	5	12.2%	$572,372	n/d	n/d	n/d
Pot gear	292	77	26.4%	$198,881	$66,101	$24,834	$90,935
Power troll	502	92	18.3%	$50,696	$35,173	$20,777	$55,950
Purse seine	354	73	20.6%	$139,162	$68,391	$18,502	$86,893
Set gillnet	2,193	1,397	63.7%	$17,228	$10,107	$22,197	$32,304

Note: The abbreviation n/d means not disclosable.

Sources for Exhibits 9 and 10: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Permit Holders in Wage and Salary Jobs, By Region
Alaska, 2006

11

Region fished	Permit Holders: Number with a SSN match	Number with wage and salary jobs	Percentage with wage and salary jobs	Average gross fishing earnings for those without wage and salary jobs	Average gross fishing earnings for those with wage and salary jobs	Average wage and salary earnings for those with wage and salary jobs	Average total earnings for those with wage and salary jobs
Aleutians and Pribilof Islands	348	113	32.5%	$160,626	$60,268	$23,832	$84,100
Bristol Bay	1,175	654	55.7%	$52,613	$31,476	$26,786	$58,262
Kodiak	401	84	20.9%	$154,313	$42,223	$24,642	$66,865
Northern	170	115	67.6%	$9,677	$10,330	$24,786	$35,116
Southcentral	1,256	485	38.6%	$42,367	$24,815	$34,852	$59,667
Southeast	1,896	571	30.1%	$57,914	$22,375	$25,659	$48,035
Yukon Delta	968	752	77.7%	$4,310	$4,504	$17,697	$22,201
Unknown in Alaska	123	102	82.9%	n/d	n/d	$15,084	n/d

Note: The abbreviation n/d means not disclosable.

Permit Holders in Wage and Salary Jobs, By Species
Alaska, 2006

12

Species fished	Permit Holders: Number with a SSN match	Number with wage and salary jobs	Percentage with wage and salary jobs	Average gross fishing earnings for those without wage and salary jobs	Average gross fishing earnings for those with wage and salary jobs	Average wage and salary earnings for those with wage and salary jobs	Average total earnings for those with wage and salary jobs
Crab	192	57	29.7%	$176,880	$69,117	$23,150	$92,266
Groundfish	211	29	13.7%	$266,723	$177,459	$24,610	$202,069
Halibut[1]	681	340	49.9%	n/a	n/a	$29,760	n/a
Herring	120	49	40.8%	$17,876	$5,238	$18,981	$24,219
Miscellaneous shellfish	138	55	39.9%	$31,993	$22,188	$25,444	$47,632
Sablefish	272	43	15.8%	$138,749	$51,646	$24,556	$76,202
Salmon	4,721	2,301	48.7%	$48,236	$20,649	$24,327	$44,976
Other	2	2	100.0%	n/a	n/d	n/d	n/d

Note: The abbreviation n/a means not available and n/d means not disclosable.
[1] Halibut fishing earnings data for 2006 are not yet available.

Sources for Exhibits 11 and 12: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

holders, average total earnings for salmon fishermen were the most balanced when comparing those with wage and salary employment to those without. The average gross fishing earnings in 2006 for salmon fishermen without other jobs were $48,236, a figure 134 percent higher than the average of $20,649 earned by those with non-fishing employment. However, the gap narrows to 7 percent when the wage and salary earnings of those with second jobs, $24,327, are taken into consideration.

Industries and occupations beyond commercial fishing

What industries and occupations tend to be a good match for commercial fishermen seeking wage and salary employment? Educational and health services, government, and trade, transportation and utilities employed the highest percentages of fishermen. (See Exhibit 6.) Government workers who own fishing permits are often able to save up leave time, allowing them to participate in fisheries with shorter openings. Many teachers own permits they fish during their time off in the summer.

Commercial fishing is a notoriously physical job. Not surprisingly, the most common off-season occupations for fishermen required outdoor, hands-on work. Jobs as construction trade workers, movers and repairmen were the most common non-fishing occupations,

13 Fishermen in Wage and Salary Jobs, By Occupational Group
Alaska, 2006

Occupational Group	Permit holders with a SSN match in a wage and salary job	Adult crew with a SSN match in a wage and salary job	Total fishermen with a SSN match in a wage and salary job
Construction trades workers	451	466	917
Material moving workers	254	311	565
Other installation, maintenance and repair occupations	155	134	289
Retail sales workers	63	147	210
Primary, secondary and special education school teachers	125	78	203
Water transportation workers	76	124	200
Building cleaning and pest control workers	95	97	192
Food processing workers	36	154	190
Other education, training and library occupations	101	86	187
Other office and administrative support workers	63	94	157
Food and beverage serving workers	19	122	141

14 Fishermen in Wage and Salary Jobs, By Age
Alaska, 2006

	Permit Holders			Adult Crew Members[1]		
Age Group	Total with a SSN[2]	Total employed in wage and salary jobs	Percentage employed in wage and salary jobs	Total with a SSN	Total employed in wage and salary jobs	Percentage employed in wage and salary jobs
Under 20	249	68	27.3%	630	363	57.6%
Ages 20 to 29	633	349	55.1%	1,830	1,211	66.2%
Ages 30 to 39	928	503	54.2%	1,054	657	62.3%
Ages 40 to 49	1,796	962	53.6%	1,115	701	62.9%
Ages 50 to 59	1,687	760	45.1%	653	356	54.5%
Ages 60 and over	1,044	234	22.4%	243	66	27.2%
Total	6,337	2,876	45.4%	5,525	3,354	60.7%

[1] Excludes resident crew members under the age of 18

[2] Includes only those fishermen who made landings or bought a crew license in 2006 and who birth dates were available for

Sources for Exhibits 13 and 14: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

although teachers also showed up high on the list. (See Exhibit 13.)

Almost half of those permit holders who worked as primary, secondary or special education teachers fished in a setnet salmon fishery. About 30 percent of permit holders who worked in the construction trades fished salmon in setnets on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers.

Demographic differences for fishermen with multiple jobs

Commercial fishermen in their 20s in 2006 were the most likely to hold wage and salary jobs while fishing. That's not surprising, as inexperienced fishermen typically earn less than their experienced counterparts, and that might be why they look for another job. The oldest and youngest fishermen were the least likely to hold other jobs. (See Exhibit 14.)

Generally, permit holders were older than their crew members, while those with wage and salary employment in 2006 were slightly younger than those whose sole source of income came from fishing. The median age of a permit holder in 2006 was 47, a full 15 years older than the median crew member's age of 32. The gap is striking considering that only those crew members 18 and older were included in this analysis. Including crew under the age of 18 would have only enlarged the age disparity.

Although smaller than the variance between the two types of fishermen, an age difference

Fishermen in Wage and Salary Jobs, By Gender
Alaska, 2006

15

Gender[1]	Permit Holders: Total with SSN[3]	Permit Holders: Total employed in wage and salary jobs	Permit Holders: Percentage employed in wage and salary jobs	Crew Members[2]: Total with SSN[3]	Crew Members[2]: Total employed in wage and salary jobs	Crew Members[2]: Percentage employed in wage and salary jobs
Male	5,535	2,439	44.1%	4,322	2,581	59.7%
Female	801	437	54.6%	1,201	773	64.4%

[1] Gender couldn't be identified for one permit holder and two crew members.

[2] Excludes resident crew members under the age of 18

[3] Includes only those fishermen who made landings or bought a crew license in 2006 and who birth dates were available for

Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; Alaska Department of Revenue, Permanent Fund Dividend Division; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

is still evident when comparing those with wage and salary employment in 2006 to those who relied solely on fishing. Permit holders with non-fishing employment had a median age of 45, compared to a median of 50 for those without. Similarly, crew members with wage and salary jobs had a median age of 31, three years less than the median of 34 for crew members who didn't.

Industry leaders and various communities have raised concerns over the rapidly increasing average age of permit holders, sometimes referred to as the "graying of the fleet." Despite those concerns, there appears to be a large pool of young crew members gaining valuable fishing experience. However, start-up costs are high, including the costs for a permit, quota, vessel, fuel and insurance, and those costs represent significant hurdles for anyone entering the fishing industry.

Although commercial fishing is an industry dominated by men, the percentage of women has increased in recent years. In 2006, nearly 13 percent of the permit holders and more than 21 percent of the crew members were women. About 64 percent of female crew members and 54.6 percent of female permit holders had wage and salary employment in 2006, higher figures than their male counterparts. (See Exhibit 15.)

Overview

A slight majority of permit holders (54.6 percent) and a minority of crew members (39.3 percent) relied on Alaska's seafood as their sole source of income in 2006. In all, about 5,600 permit holders and crew members that year didn't have a second job, yet 6,230 did. Presumably, the gear type, amount of required capitalization and length of the season dictated whether it was possible, or prudent, to hold down a shoreside job as well.

More seafood industry information is online

In past *Trends* issues, we've released monthly employment estimates for fish harvesting. Those figures estimate the number of jobs available in commercial fishing on a month-to-month basis. Recent data assembled from landing tickets estimate the number of yearly workers in a given region, fishery or gear type. Our seafood page also features easy access to past seafood-related articles, as well as in-depth explanations of our methodologies.

To access the data, go to Research and Analysis' Web site at almis.labor.state.ak.us. Click on "Industry Information" on the blue vertical bar on the left, and below that, click on "Seafood Industry." Finally, select "Statewide" or a particular region for a list of the various data sets available.

The Aleutians East Borough

By Brigitta Windisch-Cole, Economist

Remote and rich in resources and history

Abundant fish, shellfish and maritime mammals have sustained life for residents on the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands for some 7,000 years. Until the arrival of Russian fur traders in the mid- and late 1700s, an estimated population of 12,000 to 15,000 "Unangan" – the Aleut word for the people – thrived off the riches of the sea. Russian colonization that turned American in 1867 held back population growth of the indigenous population. According to historians, disease and resource depletion caused the sharp decline.

By the early 1900s, the fur trade collapsed from overhunting and economic interest switched to the area's seafood resources. Whaling, fishing, salteries and canneries brought Scandinavians, Europeans and Americans, yet only a few stayed, likely due to the harsh climate and lack of amenities.

During World War II the Aleutian Islands came under Japanese attack and turned the western islands into the only battlefields on American soil. In 1942, U.S. defense forces relocated the Native residents west of Unimak Pass to internment camps in Southeast Alaska. And after the war only a few of the Aleut evacuees returned home.

The Aleut population has never matched 12,000 to 15,000 people that historians think lived in the Aleutians prior to the mid-1700s. The 2000 Census counted 10,695 people with full or partial Aleut heritage living in Alaska. Yet, in 2005,[1] fewer than 2,000 lived on the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, an area now divided into the Aleutians West Census Area and the Aleutians East Borough. This article will focus on the latter.

[1] The year 2005 is the most recent year for which race estimates are currently available.

1 Population Changes
The Aleutians East Borough and its communities, 1980 to 2006

	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census	2006 Estimate[1]	Percentage Change, 2000 to 2006	Percentage Change, 1990 to 2006	Year of Incorporation
Aleutians East Borough	1,643	2,464	2,697	2,643	-2%	7%	1988
Akutan	169	589	713	741	4%	26%	1979
Ships in Port		187[2]					
Belkofski	10	0	0	0			
Cold Bay	192	148	88	87	-1%	-41%	1982
False Pass	70	68	64	54	-16%	-21%	1990
King Cove	460	451	792	807	2%	79%	1947
Nelson Lagoon	59	83	83	63	-24%	-24%	
Sand Point	625	878	952	890	-7%	1%	1978
Remainder of Aleutians East Borough	58	247	5	1			

Notes: The communities listed are cities, with the exception of Belkofski and Nelson Lagoon. Belkofski is an Alaska Native Village Statistical Area; ANVSA boundaries encompass the settled area associated with each Alaska Native Village. Nelson Lagoon is a Census Designated Place, which is a closely settled unincorporated population center.

The U.S. Census Bureau provided the Census numbers. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development provided the 2006 estimates.

[1] All references to the 2006 population in this article are to the Department of Labor's 2006 population estimates, which are the average annual resident population often referred to as the July 1 population.

[2] The number 187 is a subset of 589.

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

The Aleutian East Borough emerges

The Demographics and Population Growth 2
Aleutians East Borough, 1990 to 2006

At statehood fewer than 1,000 people lived in the communities of today's Aleutians East Borough. The borough had 1,573 residents when it was formed in 1988. It's grown 7 percent since 1990 – a low figure for population growth. The area's outmigration of the local year-round population has been masked by the growth of a transient seafood processing work force.

	Aleutians East Borough		Alaska	
	Number of People	Percentage	Number of People	Percentage
Population in 2006:	2,643	100%	670,053	100%
Age Distribution in 2006:				
Birth to age 19	397	15%	215,486	32%
Age 20 to age 59	2,089	79%	382,884	57%
Age 60 and older	157	6%	71,683	11%
Male to Female Ratio in 2006:	198 men to 100 women		105 men to 100 women	
Birthrate, 2005 to 2006:	7.9 per 1,000 population		15.4 per 1,000 population	
Population Growth, 1990 to 2006:	179	7%	120,010	22%

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

In 2006, the Aleutians East Borough population estimate stood at 2,643, and over half – 1,419 people – were transient seafood processing workers. The borough's largest communities are Sand Point, King Cove and Akutan, in that order. (See Exhibit 1.) All three are seafood processing centers.

Numbers are important when looking at the borough's demographics, because the numbers are small – smaller than many Alaska communities. The entire borough makes up 0.4 percent of the state's population. (See Exhibit 2.)

Transient workers skew demographics

Borough-specific demographic data may seem surprising: The Aleutian East Borough is very racially diverse. (See Exhibit 3.) Although the area is traditionally Alaska Native, nearly as many whites (36 percent) lived in the borough in 2005[2] as Natives (37 percent). Asian and Pacific Islanders made up 25 percent in 2005 and African Americans made up 2 percent.

The large presence of a foreign-born work force in the borough closely resembles the demographic composition of Alaska's entire seafood work force, many of whom are first-generation immigrants. The 2000 Census, for example, shows that 18.3 percent of the borough's population was born outside the United States.

The borough's gender ratio is extreme, as there were nearly twice as many men as women in 2006 – 198 males to every 100 females. (See Exhibit 2.) The predominantly male seafood processing work force lives in company-provided bunkhouses, a dormitory type of living. Many of the seafood workers have families elsewhere. The gender dominance explains to some degree the low birth rate of 7.9 births per 1,000 population. That was about half the Alaska average in the 2005-2006 period and the third lowest in the state.

The strong presence of seafood workers in the borough explains the age factor. A clear majority of the borough's population in 2006, 79 percent, was between the ages of 20 and 59, the prime working-age population. Fifteen percent were younger than 20, and less than 6 percent were 60 and older.

Resident population trends downward

The Aleutians East Borough's young-age group (birth to age 19) declined by 38 percent – 239 people – between 1990 and 2006. Although 239 isn't a huge number, the change is significant.

School enrollment further suggests that area residents are leaving. Between October 2000 and October 2006, the borough's total school enrollment (kindergarten to 12th grade) dropped 23 percent from 301 students to 232. The schools in Akutan, Cold Bay and False Pass each had 10 or fewer students in 2006.

[2] The year 2005 is the most recent year for which data are currently available.

3 Race and Ethnicity
Aleutians East Borough, 2005

	Aleutians East Borough		Alaska	
Race Composition in 2005:[1]	Number of People	Percentage	Number of People	Percentage
White	967	36%	484,673	73%
Native American	981	37%	117,743	18%
African American	51	2%	25,970	4%
Asian and Pacific Islander	660	25%	35,275	5%
Ethnicity Composition in 2005:				
Hispanic	300	11%	26,413	4%

[1] Race composition in 2005 is a bridged series. For an explanation of "bridged series," go to Research and Analysis' home page at almis.labor.state.ak.us and click on "Population & Census" in the blue box on the left. Then click on the "Alaska Population Estimates 2000-2006" link. Under "Vinage 2006 Estimates" and "Alaska State Estimates," click on the "Alaska State Race Bridged Smooth Series 1990-2006" link.

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

Some of the reasons to explain out-migration include dwindling or static income and the rise in the cost of living, plus the overall trend of rural to urban migration that's occurring throughout Alaska – at least partly due to increased job opportunities and improved services in the urban areas.

Despite the ups and downs, fish reigns king

The fishermen who live in the Aleutians East Borough target salmon, various groundfish and halibut as their principal species. Local fishermen fished for crab until the crab rationalization[3] in 2005; a few fishermen still pursue herring. In all, the Alaska Peninsula has a diversified and a near year-round fishery.

As elsewhere in Alaska's coastal regions, seafood harvesting evolved as a local economic activity while seafood processing became reliant mostly on a migrating work force, largely from outside the United States.

Alaska Peninsula fishermen face challenges

The borough's salmon fishermen, who are part of the Alaska Peninsula fishing district, suffered like other area fishermen when prices started to deteriorate in the mid-1990s and plummeted in 2001. Since then prices for sockeye, the area's preferred targeted species, have stayed low, rebounding only slightly.

The borough and surrounding area is a mixed-stock fishery, where salmon are caught on the way to their spawning grounds in Bristol Bay and further north. Regulators, who closely monitor the stock and natural escapement of fish, often impose strict harvest guidelines on the area's fleet. Curtailed fishing time, for example, resulted in particularly low salmon harvests in 1996 and 1997.

Even so, the salmon fishery is still one of the area's most important. The fishery has had the highest number of participants, but the fact that the area's fishing effort is declining has become a dire fact. The Alaska Peninsula fishing district had 373 permit holders plus crew in 1996. That number dropped 29 percent to 264 in 2006. Local residents fished 197 salmon permits in 1996, compared to 140 a decade later.[4]

Other fisheries have been more positive for the area's fishermen. Groundfish, particularly cod, has made sizeable contributions to earnings. Local fishermen earned more from groundfish than from salmon from 2000 to 2003. In recent years, halibut has also been a moneymaker.

The picture hasn't been as good for the area's crab fishery – earnings from the crab fishery have declined sharply in the last 25 years. The value of the crab fishery, for instance, was 70 percent less in 2005 than it was in 1980. (Back then, even king crab was still fished; stock depletion caused its decline.)

Local harvesters have also participated in the Bering Sea tanner crab fishery. Recently, crab fishing again changed its course with the implementation of the crab rationalization program of 2005, which aimed to reduce the crab catcher fleet. It had an immediate effect on the area's

[3] Crab rationalization is explained in the next section.

[4] According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

Wage and Salary Employment and Local Harvesting Earnings 4
Aleutians East Borough, 2000 to 2006

	2000[1]	2001[1]	2002[1]	2003[1]	2004[1]	2005[1]	2006[1]	2000 to 2006
Resident Gross Fish Harvesting Earnings[2]	$25,942,096	$17,029,791	$16,112,833	$19,477,657	$22,303,407	$25,074,162	n/a	n/a
Payroll	$44,434,797	$44,907,103	$46,273,642	$54,044,398	$52,112,172	$54,822,261	$59,028,487	$14,593,690
Average Monthly Earnings	$2,272	$2,154	$2,306	$2,591	$2,243	$2,488	$2,488	$216
Total Wage an Salary Employment[3]	1,630	1,737	1,672	1,738	1,936	1,836	1,978	348
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing[4] and Hunting	4	3	2	2	2	1	1	-3
Construction	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Manufacturing	1,080	1,176	1,102	1,163	1,369	1,305	1,459	379
Seafood Processing	1,080	1,176	1,102	1,163	1,369	1,305	1,459	379
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	75	77	84	83	84	76	72	-3
Wholesale	8	7	8	8	6	7	4	-4
Retail	42	38	43	45	46	37	24	-18
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	25	32	33	30	32	32	44	19
Information	6	5	3	2	3	2	3	-3
Financial Activities	48	57	53	30	29	31	30	-18
Professional and Business Services	17	14	15	13	12	10	12	-5
Educational[5] and Health Services	65	67	63	68	69	70	64	-1
Leisure and Hospitality	9	9	9	41	34	33	35	26
Other Services	9	13	23	29	27	19	15	6
Government	317	316	318	305	307	289	286	-31
Federal Government[6]	24	23	23	25	25	25	23	-1
State Government[7]	17	17	17	17	17	18	17	0
Local Government[8]	276	276	278	263	265	246	247	-29

Note: The abbreviation n/a means not available.

[1] Employment and earnings statistics differ from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Earnings Reports of 2000 to 2006 due to corrections in subsequent years.

[2] Gross harvest earnings represent annual harvest values.

[3] Excludes the self-employed, fishermen and private household workers

[4] This category excludes nearly all fishermen and their crew. For estimates of fish harvesting employment, and other fisheries data, go to labor.alaska.gov/research/seafood/seafood.htm.

[5] Private education only

[6] Excludes the uniformed military

[7] Includes the University of Alaska

[8] Includes public school systems

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

fishing effort. In 2005, 50 local fishermen went crabbing and in 2006 only 15 placed pots. How the program will affect longterm local earnings isn't clear yet.

Commercial fishing earnings have hardly made strides

Local fishermen and their crews earned $25 million in 2005,[5] which was down 3 percent from what they earned in 2000 and 13 percent from what they earned 20 years ago. This underscores the challenges local fishing families face to eke out a living.

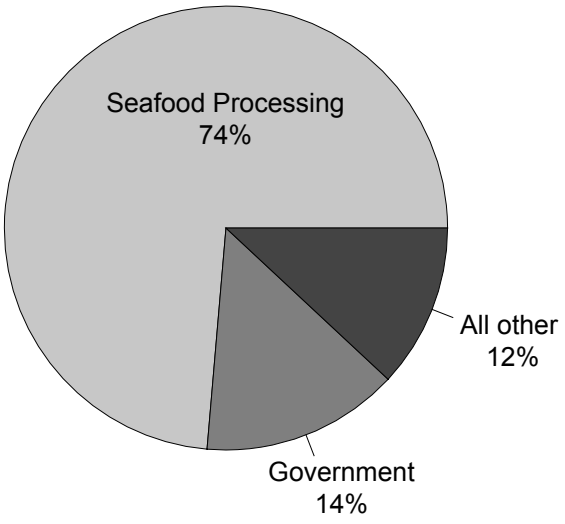
[5] The year 2005 is the most recent year for which data are currently available.

The cost of doing business for commercial fishermen has also increased. The borough, like other areas in Alaska, is a high-cost area because of its remote location; most supplies arrive by barge or are delivered by air to individual communities. Recent escalating energy prices have caused surges in the cost of living as well.

Justine Gundersen, Nelson Lagoon's tribal administrator who fishes commercially, was quoted in a borough press release in May: "During the 1980s, salmon was worth more than $2.50 per pound and fuel was about a dollar per gallon. Now salmon sells for 55 cents a pound and gasoline is about $5 per gallon in our region."

5 Seafood Processing Dominates
Aleutians East Borough, 2006

Wage and Salary Employment in 2006



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

The 2007 salmon harvest, though, turned into a good season. An abundant catch, coupled with a better first-price offering for sockeye salmon, lifted the spirits of area fishermen. The first-price offering hovered between 60 cents and 68 cents a pound, according to fishermen.

Seafood workers dominate the wage and salary work force

The seafood processing industry is a big part of the borough's employment. Seventy-four percent of the jobs in the borough in 2006 were in seafood processing. (See Exhibits 4 and 5.)

In spite of the seafood processing industry's overwhelming impact on job counts, hardly any income earned by seafood workers remains in the region. More than 92 percent of the borough's seafood workers in 2005[6] were nonresidents and they earned $45 million in wages that year.[7]

[6] The year 2005 is the most recent year for which data are currently available.

[7] According to the Department of Labor's Nonresidents Working in Alaska 2005, which was published in January 2007

Just like in the old days, the seafood processing industry surrounds itself with a self- supporting economy. Nearly all needed supplies come from Washington state, where the two major seafood processing companies – Peter Pan and Trident – are headquartered. A long established practice, the industry provides housing, food and other personal care products to its work force.

Therefore, there's little economic interaction between seafood workers and local residents. Two segregated but parallel economies have coexisted for a long time in communities such as King Cove, Sand Point and Akutan. For example, in Akutan, which has a resident population of 741, the Trident plant can house as many as 825 employees at the height of the season.

Boroughwide, the public sector, or government, is the second-largest employer. It represented 14 percent (286 jobs) of the borough's wage and salary jobs in 2006. The majority of those jobs are in local government, and most of local government's jobs are with the schools. (See Exhibit 5.)

After the public sector, the remaining 233 private-sector jobs in the borough's six communities[8] primarily support the local commercial fishermen and their crews, and the traditional community, where residents lead subsistence lifestyles that are supplemented with cash economies, mostly stemming from fish.

Between 2000 and 2006, the number of jobs in the borough grew by 348, and nearly all of them can be attributed to the seafood processing industry. (See Exhibit 4.) In fact, the rest of the economy was losing jobs while seafood processing was adding positions.

The future

The residents of the Aleutians East Borough are striving for new economic development to improve their economy. Plans include adding to the seafood industry infrastructure, expanding seafood processing operations, improving transportation and developing an oil and gas industry.

[8] Belkofski, the Alaska Native Village Statistical Area listed in Exhibit 1, is not included in the six.

Local investment in seafood processing could help the fleet

The Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association, a regional nonprofit development group, owns fishing quotas for pollock, cod, sablefish and numerous other species, and has harvesting rights for halibut and crab. The organization is made up of the fishermen associations representing three Aleutians East Borough communities, Akutan, False Pass and Nelson Lagoon, plus Atka, Nikolski and St. George.[9]

The organization uses the revenue from its fishing and processing operations to build and refurbish infrastructure such as docks in its member communities, and acquire seafood-related businesses, fishing vessels, and fishing and processing rights, among other things.

APICDA officials say the organization plans to expand operations and create processing facilities in False Pass and Nelson Lagoon. New processing facilities benefit fishermen by giving them more options to sell their catch.

Improved transportation establishes commuter traffic

Complicated transportation has long been an obstacle for residents. The transportation problem between King Cove and Cold Bay has received attention because, even though the communities are only 27 land miles apart, air or water travel is required to get between the two. Long and ongoing discussions center on a road link, which many feel is crucial because Cold Bay, the smaller community, has an accessible airport with a 10,420-foot paved runway that can accommodate large jets, and King Cove, the larger community, has a seafood processing center, yet inclement weather frequently grounds air traffic and isolates the community.

A proposed but controversial road would pass through the federally protected Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. A proposed land swap between the federal and state governments and the King Cove Corporation, a village corporation, could be a solution. Meanwhile, an alternative transportation link has been established: a 93-foot hovercraft, owned by the borough, now ferries people and vehicles – including medical evacuations to Anchorage via Cold Bay – for a 20-minute waterway commute between the two shores.

Once more, the focus shifts to oil and gas development

Long before statehood, geologists discovered the hydrocarbon potential in Bristol Bay and the northern coastal plain of the Aleutians East Borough. Early drilling in 1902, however, was disappointing and exploration interest faded for several decades. Interest picked up in the 1960s and 1970s; 26 oil wells had been drilled by 1985, when the latest one went in. Oil and gas development in the region was halted with the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989.

Recent resource evaluation led to renewed interest and the State of Alaska, as owner of the subsurface mineral estate, sold leases totaling $1.1 million to two bidders in an October 2005 sale and sold another $39,000 lease to a sole bidder in a February 2007 sale. Additional state-sponsored lease sales are planned. The federal government recently lifted its drilling ban and plans to offer offshore acreage for lease as early as 2011, pending environmental reviews.

In summary

Although the fish-dependent economy of the Aleutians East Borough has struggled in the last decade, development plans exist to bring about a turnaround. If those plans are successful and the fisheries recover, the population loss of year-round residents should end; the population might even grow. Improved transportation would resolve some of the isolation problems, establishing economic links with the outside world. Other economic incentives, such as payroll job growth and sufficient earnings from fish harvesting, might also entice Aleutians East Borough residents and the next generation to stay, maintaining their way of life and cultural traditions in the place where their ancestors lived.

[9] The Unalaska Native Fishermen's Association is a non-voting member of APICDA, according to APICDA's Web site.

By Dan Robinson, Economist

What's up and down so far in 2007

Alaska's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.3 percent in September and payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) fell by 7,600 jobs, a typical seasonal decline. (See Exhibits 1-3).

Read together, the two indicators suggest a continuation of Alaska's long-running trend of modest but consistent job growth. In other words, everything appears calm on the surface. A little below the surface, though, there are changing currents that bear watching.

Strong growth for oil and gas

The oil and gas industry added 1,100 jobs from September 2006 to September 2007 and accounted for more than a fourth of all job growth over the period. When related employment in professional and business services and other industries are considered, the oil and gas industry's contribution to overall growth becomes even more dominant.

It should be remembered, however, that as recently as 2003, the industry was cutting jobs, and the big question is how much of the growth is due to increased exploration and development – growth that might prove to be longer-term – and how much is due to periodic maintenance and repair projects of finite duration. Complicating the picture is the combination of near-record oil prices, which have a tendency to stimulate activity, and declining production.

Construction job count down

After nearly a decade of strong growth, construction employment fell in 2006 and has been down for much of 2007. The nation's housing market woes have been well publicized and Alaska has felt some of that pain, although public and commercial construction have partly offset the losses.

Health care coming back to the pack

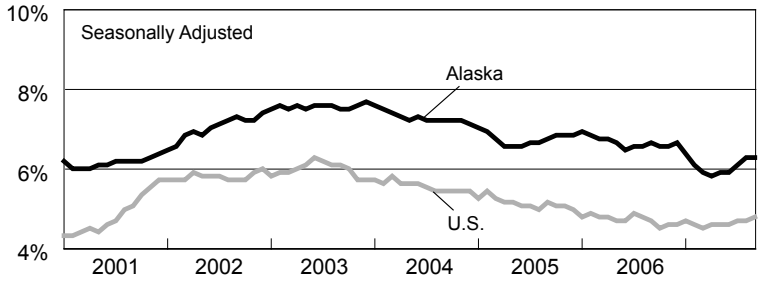
Alaska will mark its twentieth consecutive year of job growth in 2007 and for much of that time, health care has been the biggest contributor of new jobs. But growth for the industry has slowed noticeably over the last few years and has just managed to outpace overall growth through the first nine months of 2007.

Leisure and hospitality up, government down

One of the state's engines of growth that does not appear to be faltering is the leisure and hospitality sector, where much of the state's tourism-related employment is counted. Through the first nine months of the year, leisure and hospitality jobs grew at twice the rate of total wage and salary jobs.

Government's job count, which has been largely stable since 2003, has fallen slightly over the same period.

Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.
January 2001 to September 2007 **1**



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

2 Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Alaska	Preliminary 9/07	Revised 8/07	Revised 9/06	Changes from: 8/07	Changes from: 9/06
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary[1]	333,900	341,500	329,900	-7,600	4,000
Goods-Producing[2]	50,700	56,300	49,300	-5,600	1,400
Service-Providing[3]	283,200	285,200	280,600	-2,000	2,600
Natural Resources and Mining	14,300	14,200	13,000	100	1,300
Logging	300	300	400	0	-100
Mining	14,000	14,000	12,600	0	1,400
Oil and Gas	11,700	11,600	10,600	100	1,100
Construction	21,000	21,600	21,100	-600	-100
Manufacturing	15,500	20,500	15,200	-5,000	300
Wood Product Manufacturing	300	300	400	0	-100
Seafood Processing	11,400	16,200	11,200	-4,800	200
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	67,000	69,500	66,400	-2,500	600
Wholesale Trade	6,800	7,000	6,800	-200	0
Retail Trade	36,700	37,900	36,300	-1,200	400
Food and Beverage Stores	6,400	6,700	6,400	-300	0
General Merchandise Stores	8,900	9,200	8,900	-300	0
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	23,500	24,600	23,300	-1,100	200
Air Transportation	6,900	7,000	6,600	-100	300
Truck Transportation	3,300	3,400	3,200	-100	100
Information	7,000	7,000	6,900	0	100
Telecommunications	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	0
Financial Activities	15,100	15,500	15,100	-400	0
Professional and Business Services	26,400	26,800	25,500	-400	900
Educational[4] **and Health Services**	37,600	37,600	37,100	0	500
Health Care	27,100	27,000	26,700	100	400
Leisure and Hospitality	36,200	39,400	35,400	-3,200	800
Accommodations	9,800	11,500	9,800	-1,700	0
Food Services and Drinking Places	21,600	22,500	20,900	-900	700
Other Services	11,500	11,600	11,700	-100	-200
Government	82,500	77,900	82,500	4,600	0
Federal Government[5]	17,000	17,300	17,100	-300	-100
State Government	25,200	23,900	25,200	1,300	0
State Government Education[6]	7,400	5,800	7,400	1,600	0
Local Government	40,300	36,700	40,200	3,600	100
Local Government Education[7]	22,200	18,200	22,100	4,000	100
Tribal Government	3,600	3,700	3,600	-100	0

Notes for all exhibits on this page:

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

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

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

[4] Private education only

[5] Excludes uniformed military

[6] Includes the University of Alaska

[7] Includes public school systems

[8] Fairbanks North Star Borough

Sources for all exhibits on this page: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

3 Unemployment Rates By borough and census area

	Prelim. 9/07	Revised 8/07	Revised 9/06
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	4.7	4.6	4.6
Alaska Statewide	6.3	6.3	6.7
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
United States	4.5	4.6	4.4
Alaska Statewide	5.6	5.4	5.9
Anchorage/Mat-Su	5.3	5.1	5.5
Municipality of Anchorage	5.0	4.8	5.2
Mat-Su Borough	6.2	6.2	6.5
Gulf Coast Region	6.2	5.5	6.5
Kenai Peninsula Borough	6.5	5.8	6.7
Kodiak Island Borough	5.3	4.7	6.2
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	5.8	5.1	5.9
Interior Region	5.2	5.0	5.5
Denali Borough	2.3	1.8	2.7
Fairbanks North Star Borough	4.8	4.6	5.2
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7.6	7.9	8.9
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	10.6	11.6	10.3
Northern Region	8.3	8.6	9.4
Nome Census Area	10.4	11.4	10.6
North Slope Borough	5.4	5.5	7.0
Northwest Arctic Borough	10.1	10.0	11.3
Southeast Region	4.9	4.5	5.2
Haines Borough	4.2	3.2	4.5
Juneau Borough	4.2	3.9	4.4
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	4.2	4.0	4.7
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan CA	10.7	10.4	11.3
Sitka Borough	4.9	4.4	4.4
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon CA	5.8	5.5	6.0
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	7.4	5.2	7.1
Yakutat Borough	4.1	4.3	4.2
Southwest Region	9.7	9.7	9.9
Aleutians East Borough	7.8	6.4	8.0
Aleutians West Census Area	4.3	3.8	4.7
Bethel Census Area	12.3	13.2	12.0
Bristol Bay Borough	3.5	2.3	3.7
Dillingham Census Area	7.5	7.5	8.3
Lake and Peninsula Borough	3.9	3.9	4.6
Wade Hampton Census Area	17.5	20.3	17.8

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

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4 Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment By region

	Preliminary 9/07	Revised 8/07	Revised 9/06	Changes from: 8/07	Changes from: 9/06	Percent Change: 8/07	Percent Change: 9/06
Anch/Mat-Su	173,300	172,300	171,100	1,000	2,200	0.6%	1.3%
Anchorage	153,900	153,200	152,400	700	1,500	0.5%	1.0%
Gulf Coast	31,250	34,000	30,750	-2,750	500	-8.1%	1.6%
Interior	48,700	49,800	48,600	-1,100	100	-2.2%	0.2%
Fairbanks[8]	39,300	40,200	39,300	-900	0	-2.2%	0.0%
Northern	19,500	19,150	18,100	350	1,400	1.8%	7.7%
Southeast	40,500	43,750	40,400	-3,250	100	-7.4%	0.2%
Southwest	20,850	22,450	20,800	-1,600	50	-7.1%	0.2%