

Federal Civilian Jobs in Alaska

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

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

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

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

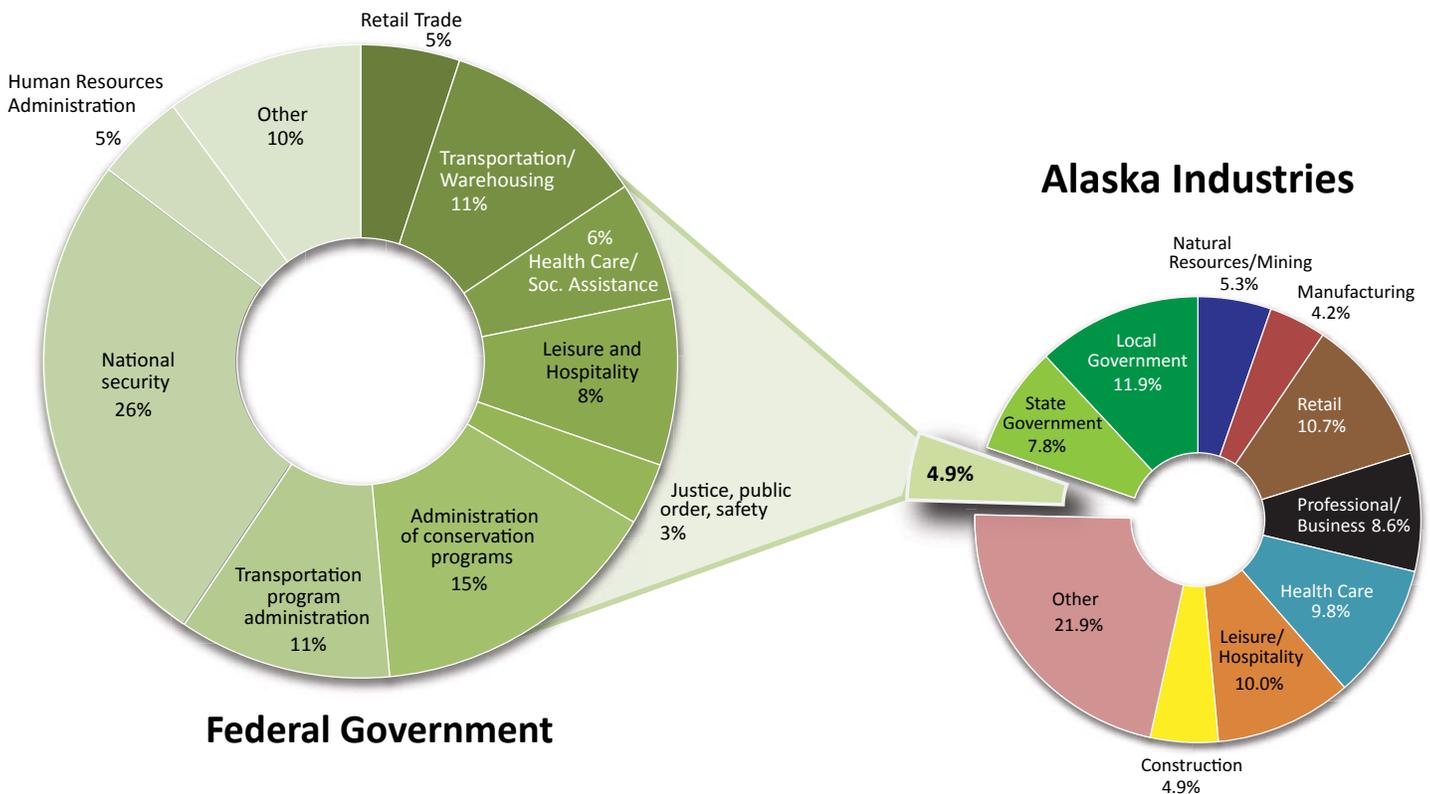
26 percent are in national security

The military has 23,237 personnel¹ in Alaska, and the federal civilian workforce stands at 16,390. But many of those civilian jobs also serve the military and are directly tied to the state's bases. Partly because of the large military presence, national security is the largest percentage of federal civil-

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

1 The Federal Government Share of Alaska's Employment

Industries and types of federal civilian work, 2012



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

Characteristics and salaries of Alaska's federal workers

By PAUL MARTZ

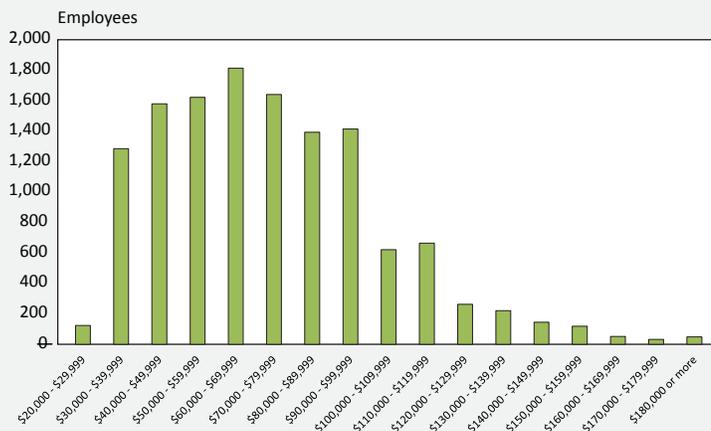
Federal departments in Alaska aren't required to report their employees' occupational data, which limits the state's ability to look at the jobs and demographics of federal workers. However, combining several data sources allowed the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development to produce estimates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

- Of the roughly 13,048¹ federal civilian employees in Alaska in 2012, **62 percent were men and 38 percent were women**. The largest share, 43 percent, worked in management, business, or administrative support positions. The next largest group was life, physical, and social scientists at 16 percent, followed by transportation workers at 9 percent.
- **Salaries tend to be high:** The majority, 51 percent, made between \$40,000 and \$79,999. The average was \$71,775, substantially higher than the 2012 statewide average of \$55,272. Part of the reason the federal average is higher

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¹This value is less than the total employment listed in the main article because of reporting limitations by the U.S. Office of Personnel and Management. For a full list of coverage, see fedscope.opm.gov.

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



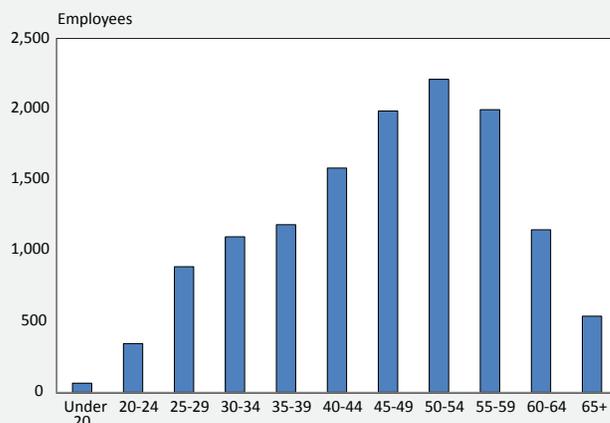
Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and Federal Office of Personnel Management

Business, finance lead occupations

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

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

Most are between ages 20 and 49



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

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

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

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

The federal government's various branches spe-

2 Defense is the Largest By Far

Select federal agencies in Alaska, 2012

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

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

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

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

Jobs all around the state

Every Alaska borough and census area has federal positions, but some rely more on the U.S. government than others. Not surprisingly, Anchorage had the largest number of federal jobs — 9,117 in 2012 — but the federal government has a bigger financial impact on many smaller areas and is often a larger percentage of a rural area's economy. (See Exhibit 3.) For example, the federal government paid over 17 percent of all wages in the Denali Borough and over 25 percent in the Hoonah-Angoon Census Area last year, and none of those jobs were tied to the military. Another area with a large percentage of federal civilians is the small Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, with jobs mainly tied to Fort Greely.

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

Federal employment trends

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

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

3 Federal Footprint Varies By Area

Alaska, 2012

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

Note: An additional 17 jobs have an unknown location.

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

FEDERAL WORKERS

Continued from page 9

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

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

The 25 highest-paying categories

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

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

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

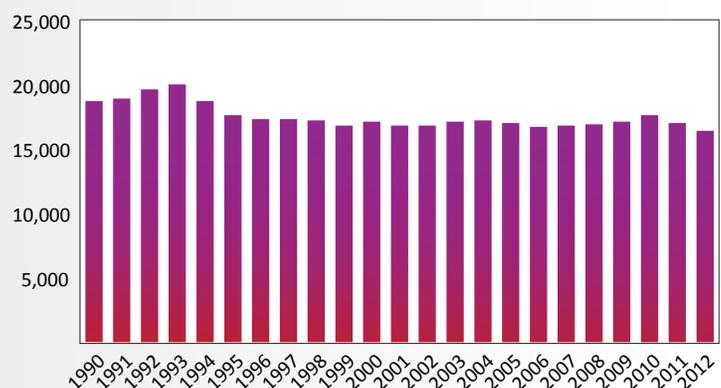
try division at Fort Wainwright and greater construction spending created more civilian jobs, but budget cuts in the late '90s brought those levels back down.

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

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

4 Federal Jobs Down the Past 2 Years

Alaska, 1990 to 2012



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