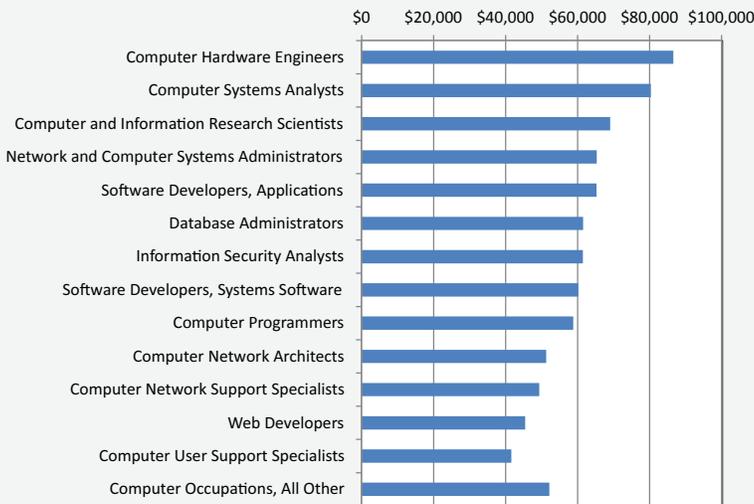


Alaska's IT Workers

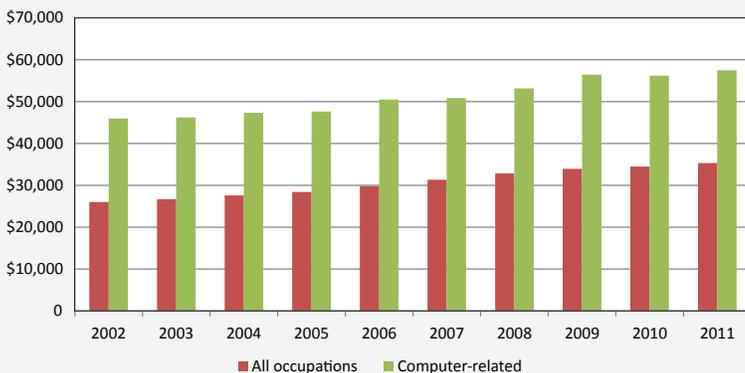
The jobs and earnings of computer workers

1 Computer Engineers Earn the Most Alaska information technology, 2011



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

2 Computer-Related Earnings Higher Versus all Alaska occupations, 2011



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

“A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing.” – Emo Phillips

It wasn't until the end of the 19th century that the word “computer” changed from a reference to a person who performed calculations or computations to a machine. Computers are an increasing part of the way many people make a living, and because businesses often depend on computers to succeed, they also rely on those who ensure computers work properly and meet their business needs.

More than 4,400 people worked in computer-related jobs in Alaska in 2011. This number includes those who worked in core information technology such as design, development, management and support of hardware, software, and systems. It does not include the thousands of workers who use computers for tasks like data entry or keeping the books for a business.

In Alaska, the average IT worker is male and about 40 years old. In 2011, about 77 percent were men with an average age of 41.3, which is close to the U.S. average. The youngest average was 35.9 for Web developers while computer and information research scientists (mostly computer scientists) were the oldest at 48.5.

Higher wages

IT workers, who are just 1 percent of Alaska's workers, earned a total of \$254 million in 2011 with an average yearly wage of \$57,469. In 2002, their pay averaged 43 percent more than all workers in the state, but by 2011 their average wage was only about 39 percent higher than the average for all workers. It appears some IT jobs with lower average pay such as computer user support specialists — or technical support — added more positions over the decade than some with a higher average wage such as programmers.

Computer hardware engineers had the highest an-

3 Characteristics of Alaska's IT Workers

Earnings, gender, age and region, 2011

	Total	Female	Male	Working all 4 qtrs	% Working all 4 qtrs	Total earnings ¹	Avg annual earnings
People in computer-related occupations	4,423	965	3,165	3,584	81.0%	\$254,185,054	\$57,469
Occupation							
Computer User Support Specialists	1,156	282	833	863	74.7%	\$48,086,879	\$41,598
Computer Programmers	629	136	463	539	85.7%	\$36,994,636	\$58,815
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	624	81	518	547	87.7%	\$40,753,587	\$65,310
Computer Systems Analysts	505	144	311	421	83.4%	\$40,596,302	\$80,389
Computer Network Support Specialists	332	54	265	282	84.9%	\$16,378,786	\$49,334
Software Developers, Systems Software	231	20	147	145	62.8%	\$13,900,368	\$60,175
Software Developers, Applications	222	47	149	189	85.1%	\$14,496,360	\$65,299
Database Administrators	153	56	89	120	78.4%	\$9,417,807	\$61,554
Computer and Information Research Scientists	84	30	51	71	84.5%	\$5,802,781	\$69,081
Information Security Analysts	65	18	45	58	89.2%	\$3,998,008	\$61,508
Computer Hardware Engineers	62	3	52	54	87.1%	\$5,370,151	\$86,615
Web Developers	56	16	37	43	76.8%	\$2,546,263	\$45,469
Computer Network Architects	14	0	12	8	57.1%	\$717,820	\$51,273
Computer Occupations, All Other	290	78	193	244	84.1%	\$15,125,306	\$52,156
Industry							
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	986	154	697	732	74.2%	\$63,096,754	\$63,993
State Government	920	193	704	833	90.5%	\$50,546,729	\$54,942
Information	589	111	461	516	87.6%	\$34,155,723	\$57,989
Local Government	553	162	380	399	72.2%	\$24,847,902	\$44,933
Health Care and Social Assistance	455	169	269	378	83.1%	\$24,748,010	\$54,391
Finance and Insurance	306	74	214	254	83.0%	\$18,472,330	\$60,367
All Other Industries	614	102	440	472	76.9%	\$38,317,606	\$62,407
Region							
Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna	2,389	551	1,838	2,114	88.5%	\$149,203,908	\$62,455
Interior	528	102	426	460	87.1%	\$30,312,860	\$57,411
Southeast	422	95	327	383	90.8%	\$22,928,840	\$54,334
Gulf Coast	171	38	133	136	79.5%	\$9,045,405	\$52,897
Southwest	162	77	85	77	47.5%	\$3,776,832	\$23,314
Northern	101	33	68	79	78.2%	\$5,397,119	\$53,437
Outside of Alaska or Unknown	650	69	288	335	51.5%	\$33,520,089	\$51,569
Gender							
Male	3,165	0	3,165	2,688	84.9%	\$190,003,250	\$60,033
Female	965	965	0	795	82.4%	\$50,265,229	\$52,088
Unknown	293	0	0	101	34.5%	\$13,916,576	\$47,497
Age Group							
14 to 21	189	75	114	44	23.3%	\$1,487,597	\$7,871
22 to 35	1,283	210	1,073	1,081	84.3%	\$63,376,891	\$49,397
36 to 50	1,575	370	1,205	1,397	88.7%	\$101,427,631	\$64,398
Over 50	1,080	308	772	960	88.9%	\$73,937,714	\$68,461
Unknown	296	2	1	102	34.5%	\$13,955,221	\$47,146

¹Earnings include all reported wages workers earned for the year, whether computer-related or not.

Note: Some rows will not sum to the total because gender was not always reported.

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

nual wage at \$86,615 in 2011 — more than twice the average for tech support.

Mainly private, professional

Every industry has IT workers, but professional, scientific, and technical services employed close to 1,000 of them in 2011 — more than any other industry. Some provide direct computer-related services, and others provide expertise that requires workers with advanced computer skills.

State government, wired telecommunication companies, local government, and health care also employed large numbers of IT workers in 2011.

Two-thirds were in the private sector, but the State of Alaska was the single largest employer with more than 900 employees in IT.

More than half of IT workers in the state worked in Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in 2011 (2,389). The region also had the highest total and annual average wages of any region.