

Higher hourly earnings were primarily responsible for increased weekly earnings over the month in all other industries.

In the year-to-year comparison, Contract Construction and Retail Trade showed lower weekly earnings, while all other industries had higher earnings. Though average hourly earnings in Construction were up from last year, hours worked were considerably lower. Declines in hourly earnings and average hours worked combined to cause the earnings drop in Retail Trade. Higher weekly earnings in Mining, Manufacturing, and Wholesale Trade resulted from an increase in both hours worked and average hourly earnings.

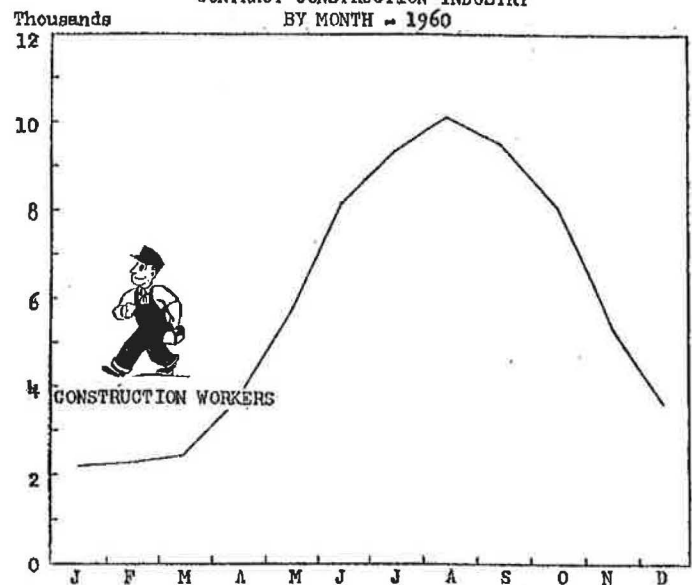
SPECIAL STUDY

Contract Construction Employment: In the 12-month period ending December 1960, average monthly insured employment in Alaska's Construction Industry was 5,891. This is an increase of 132 jobs from 1959, but is significantly below the industry employment peak of 11,220 jobs reached in 1943. Recognition of Alaska's strategic military importance during World War II provided the stimulus for construction activity at that time. From 391 jobs in 1938 (the earliest year for which data are available), employment increased by more than 10,000 jobs to the peak activity levels of 1943 and 1944, from which it dropped quickly at the end of the war to 1,814 jobs in 1946. An increase in military construction which was accentuated by the Korean War caused a rise to 10,492 jobs in 1951. Since then construction employment levels have exhibited a pattern of downward movement with the exception of 1956, when work on the early warning communication system caused a job rise, and 1960 when increased military construction resulted in job gains. A straight line fitted to the post-Korean construction industry historical data, 1954-1960, describes a downward trend with an annual employment decrease of 310 jobs.

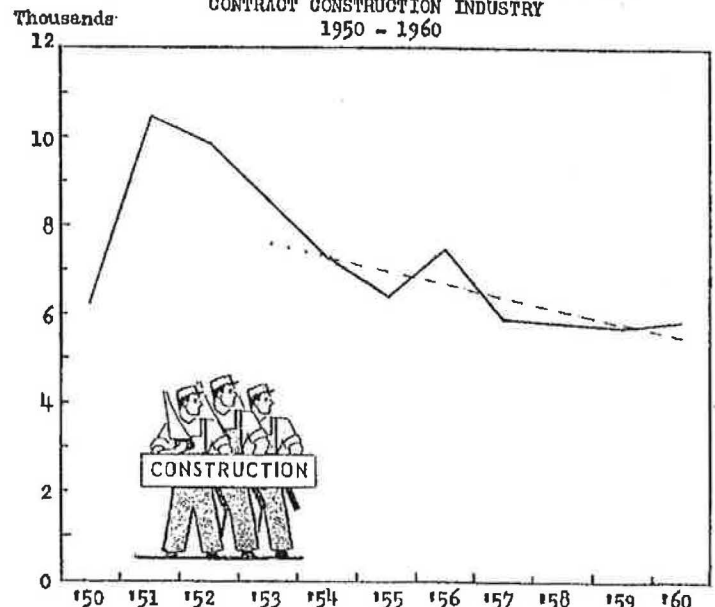
Seasonality, strongly conditioned by the weather, characterizes Alaskan construction. This is shown in the movement from a low of 2,223 jobs in January 1960 to an August high of 10,050 jobs, which was the highest seasonal employment peak reached since 1956.

Contract Construction Payrolls: Total 1960 payrolls of construction industry employers were \$73.2 million, which is

STATE UI INSURED EMPLOYMENT IN ALASKA'S
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
BY MONTH - 1960

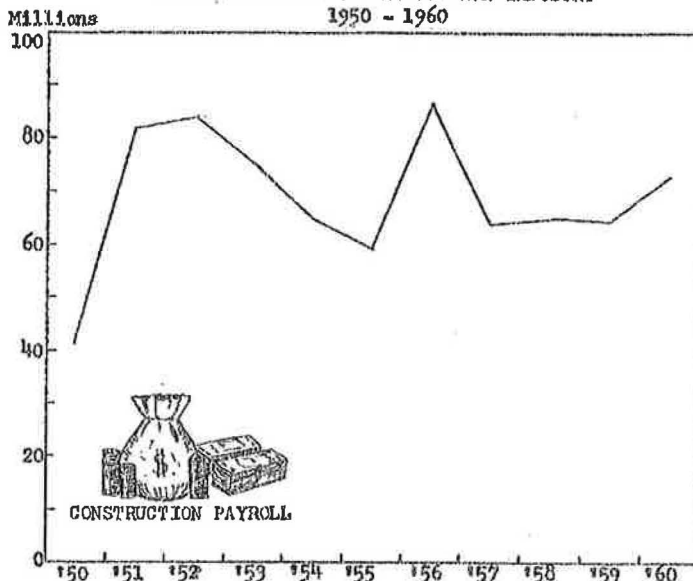


AVERAGE STATE UI INSURED EMPLOYMENT IN ALASKA'S
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
1950 - 1960



YEARLY PAYROLL FOR STATE UI INSURED EMPLOYMENT IN
ALASKA'S CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
1950 - 1960

an average of \$6.1 million per month. This is an increase from the \$64.0 million paid out by employers in 1959, but is below the peak of \$86.5 million reached in 1956. Generally, the level of payrolls has increased or declined in correspondence with employment; however, contrary to the downward trend in employment from 1954 to 1960, the trend in payrolls has been upward, reflecting increases in the wage rates of construction workers. Evidence of this is provided in a comparison of the employment and payroll figures. From the 1960 data, the average monthly income of workers in the industry was estimated to be \$1,036. This compares with estimates of \$926 in 1959 and \$739 in 1954.



AVERAGE INSURED EMPLOYMENT, YEARLY PAYROLLS, AND
AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME IN ALASKA'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
1938 - 1960

Year	Average Employment	Yearly Payroll (Millions of \$)	Average Monthly Income (\$)
1960	5,891	73.2	1,036
1959	5,759	64.0	926
1958	5,891	65.6	929
1957	5,985	63.9	890
1956	7,428	86.5	971
1955	6,413	59.8	778
1954	7,330	65.0	739
1953	8,676	76.6	735
1952	9,829	84.9	720
1951	10,492	82.7	657
1950	6,226	42.2	564
1949	5,512	35.2	533
1948	5,441	31.0	474
1947	7,479	36.9	411
1946	1,814	7.1	328
1945	3,577	22.8	530
1944	11,213	61.7	458
1943	11,220	48.6	361
1942	10,616	31.5	247
1941	4,410	15.8	298
1940	1,368	3.4	205
1939	449	.8	142
1938	391	.7	146