

# Highlights: Alaska Wage Rates 1994

by JoAnn Wilson

*Alaska Wage Rates 1994* is the 19th edition of the annual wage rate survey conducted by the Alaska Department of Labor (AKDOL), Research and Analysis Section.

## Survey Questions and Response Rate

During the summer of 1994, the Alaska DOL Research and Analysis Section mailed questionnaires to private employers in the state, asking them to report the gross rates and frequency of payment (e.g., hourly, monthly), the number of workers in each occupation paid at each rate, the number of hours worked per week, any union affiliation of workers, and if the reported wage was entry level. A total of 1,813 businesses, or about 68 percent of the businesses surveyed, provided wage information. These businesses are located in all of Alaska's six economic regions (see inside back cover) and represent nearly 37,000 workers.

The wage data for Alaska and the six economic regions are presented in separate tables in the publication. Each occupation that appears in these tables was reported for at least 15 workers by a minimum of seven employers or 30 workers by five employers. A total of 178 occupations met at least one of these publication criteria. An adequate number of responses were also received to publish entry-level wages for 59 occupations. The wage information presented in the publication represents all the wages reported for that occupation, regardless of union affiliation.

## Highest and Lowest Median Wages

Of the 10 occupations with the highest median hourly wage (see Table 1), nine belong to the professional,

paraprofessional and technical category and half are health occupations. Dentists and physicians and surgeons top the list of highest paying occupations as they did in 1993 when these occupations were added to the annual wage rate survey.

The 10 occupations with the lowest median hourly wage fall into the oc-

cupational categories of service occupations or production/construction/operating/maintenance/material-handling occupations (see Table 2). Half of the 10 lowest paying occupations are service occupations found in eating and drinking places.

*Note: The median hourly wage for an occupation is the wage at which half of the employees in the occupation earn more and half earn less.*

**Table 1  
Occupations with Highest Median Hourly Wage\*  
Alaska (July 1994)**



Dentists	• \$50.07
Physicians & Surgeons	• 46.30
Lawyers	• 31.27
Dental Hygienists	• 30.00
Mechanical Engineers	• 28.85
Pharmacists	• 28.50
Physician's Assistants	• 28.19
Electrical Powerline Installers & Repairers	• 28.15
Electrical & Electronic Engineers	• 28.01
Civil Engineers	• 27.51

\*Total of 178 selected occupations.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

**Table 2  
Occupations with Lowest Median Hourly Wage\*  
Alaska (July 1994)**



Waiters & Waitresses	• \$5.00
Dining Room/Cafeteria Attendants & Bartender's Helpers	• 5.42
Baggers	• 5.50
Combination Food Preparation/Service Workers, Fast Food	• 5.50
Hosts/Hostesses, Restaurant/Lounge/Coffee Shop	• 5.50
Dishwashers	• 6.00
Baggage Porters & Bellhops	• 6.04
Cannery & Cold Storage Workers	• 6.20
Fish Roe Technicians	• 6.20
Hand Packers & Packagers	• 6.50

\*Total of 178 selected occupations. Minimum Wage Rate (4/1/92) = \$4.75/hr. (Nonagricultural Workers).  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.