

STATEWIDE IN ALASKA

Interest in the collection and use of occupational employment data has developed over the years, spurred in part by Federal legislation and from a need for information on demand occupations now and in the future. The need for current and historical data on employment and on the demand for workers by occupation has been expressed by economists, educational planners, State governmental agencies and private industry. The data has, to some extent, been available at the national level for a number of years, but has not been adequate to meet the needs at state and local levels. The Occupational Employment statistics program was designed to provide more accurate information of this type. Approximately one hundred twenty-five manufacturing firms in Alaska were asked to participate in the first Occupational Employment Statistics survey. The survey was conducted during 1972 and covered thirteen manufacturing industries. Data collected on the food processing and wood products (logging, lumber and pulp) industries was considered representative enough for publication.

The Occupational Employment Statistics program has a number of objectives including: (1) providing accurate profiles of the State's worker—skill demands by industry and trends in the numbers of workers employed by occupation; (2) designing an on-going program based on census data and data obtained from other Federal—State programs to permit national, State, and local projections of future worker—skill requirements by industry; and (3) identifying emerging and disappearing occupations.

It is a Federal — State cooperative undertaking involving approximately twenty-five states, with additional states added to the program as resources become available. As the OES program was first set up, responsibility was divided between the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Department of Labor's Manpower Administration, represented in Alaska by the Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section. This arrangement is changing somewhat now as states are taking over more of the responsibility. The Research and Analysis Section selects the sample, mails the survey forms to establishments included in the sample, codes and edits the data, and prepares and publishes occupational projections for the State which will be

updated and expanded annually.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Manpower Administration are still directing the program, but will slowly shift some of their responsibilities to the State. The BLS has been responsible for the development of the technical aspects of the program, and gives assistance to states on technical issues they encounter. The Manpower Administration is responsible for the administrative and budgetary aspects of the program, and for providing assistance to the State in the use and application of the data in manpower programs and employment service operations.

The survey results of the OES program will be used by the states to develop the most detailed estimates available of occupational employment by industry in the State. It will also be one of the basic parts of a comprehensive manpower information system, when supplemented by other occupational information which is available. The states will use the information gleaned from the survey to evaluate and plan their educational and training programs.

Public and private school administrators will be able to use the information to evaluate vocational and other educational curricula, and to update vocational guidance programs.

The OES program is expected to help business firms and labor organizations keep abreast of changes occurring in the occupational patterns of their industries. Private employers will be able to compare their company employment patterns with those of the industry in general. The availability of projections of occupational requirements by industry will permit businesses to identify specific occupations that may be in short supply in the future and to develop plans to overcome these shortages in their own establishments. Information on the geographic areas of specific occupational skills should be of interest to both management and labor.

The first occupational projections based on the 1971 manufacturing survey should be ready for release by April 1973. This publication will have a detailed breakdown of employment and replacement needs in the food processing and wood products industries by

industry and occupation, estimated for 1972 and projected one year and five years into the future. Employment projections will be provided for Alaska's four major regions: Southwest, South Central, Northern, and Southeast.

The next survey, which is expected to be completed this coming summer, will cover most non-manufacturing industries, excluding the trade and government industries. This new information, when combined with special listings of census data prepared by the BLS will make complete estimates of employment and occupations possible by early 1974. It is expected that government industries will be surveyed around the beginning of 1974.

ALASKA'S ECONOMY IN DECEMBER

Total Employment — Unemployment: Total estimated employment decreased during December as 3,100 fewer persons were employed compared to November. When compared to a year-ago, estimated employment shows a strong gain of 6,200 persons. Both the trade and government industries have contributed substantially to the over-the-year gain.

Total estimated unemployment decreased as fewer people were actively seeking jobs and out-migration from the State for the winter began to influence the civilian work force.

Mining: Employment in the mining industry continued its downward trend during December, reaching its lowest level since mid-1969. This declining trend stems from the continued delay of the Trans Alaska Pipeline and the dispute over the ownership of public lands in Alaska.

INDUSTRY	Changes From:				
	12-72	11-72	12-71	11-72	12-71
CIVILIAN WORKFORCE.....	125,900	129,600	119,200	-3,700	6,700
INVOLVED IN WORK STOPPAGES.....	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT.....	11,300	11,900	10,800	- 600	500
Percent of Workforce.....	9.0	9.2	9.1	-	-
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT ^{2/}	114,600	117,700	108,400	-3,100	6,200
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary ^{3/}	101,600	104,400	96,000	-2,800	5,600
Mining.....	1,900	2,100	2,100	- 200	- 200
Construction.....	6,500	7,700	6,200	-1,200	300
Manufacturing.....	6,600	7,500	6,100	- 900	500
Durable Goods.....	2,700	3,300	2,100	- 600	600
Lumber, Wood Products.....	1,800	2,300	1,300	- 500	500
Other Durable Goods.....	900	1,000	800	- 100	100
Non Durable Goods.....	3,900	4,200	4,000	- 300	- 100
Food Processing.....	2,200	2,600	2,400	- 400	- 200
Other Non Durable Goods.....	1,700	1,600	1,600	100	100
Transp.-Comm. & Utilities.....	10,000	10,500	9,400	- 500	600
Trucking & Warehousing.....	1,400	1,500	1,300	- 100	100
Water Transportation.....	700	800	800	- 100	- 100
Air Transportation.....	2,800	2,900	2,700	- 100	100
Other Transp.-Comm. & Utilities.....	5,100	5,300	4,600	- 200	500
Trade.....	17,700	17,400	16,700	300	1,000
Wholesale Trade.....	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
Retail Trade.....	14,400	14,100	13,500	300	900
General Merchandise & Appar.....	3,900	3,600	3,900	300	0
Food Stores.....	2,200	2,200	1,800	0	400
Eating & Drinking Places.....	3,200	3,200	3,000	0	200
Other Retail Trade.....	5,100	5,100	4,800	0	300
Finance-Insurance & Real Estate.....	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100
Service & Miscellaneous.....	13,700	14,000	13,100	- 300	600
Government ^{4/}	41,700	41,700	39,000	0	2,700
Federal.....	17,100	17,200	17,200	- 100	- 100
State.....	14,100	14,100	12,200	0	1,900
Local.....	10,500	10,400	9,600	100	900

^{1/} Estimated in accordance with techniques recommended by U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

^{2/} Includes domestics, nonagricultural self employed and unpaid family workers, and agricultural workers.

^{3/} Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

^{4/} Includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED IN ALASKA

State Unemployment Insurance

Insured Unemployed Based on Key Week

Total Weeks Claimed.....	12-72	11-72	12-71
	5,425	5,093	5,186

Characteristic

Percent Distribution

Total.....	100	100	100
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Sex and Age

Men			
Under 45.....	52	49	51
45 and over.....	27	28	28
Women			
Under 45.....	15	17	14
45 and over.....	6	6	7

Industry

Mining.....	4	4	5
Contract Construction.....	38	36	33
Manufacturing.....	13	15	19
Transp.-Comm. & Utilities...	11	11	11
Trade.....	16	15	17
Finance-Insurance & R. E....	2	2	2
Service & Miscellaneous.....	15	16	13
All Other.....	1	1	0

Occupation

Professional & Managerial...	8	7	5
Clerical & Sales.....	10	12	12
Service.....	11	11	11
Farming-Fishing & Forestry..	2	3	2
Processing.....	6	8	8
Machine Trades.....	4	4	5
Bench Work.....	1	1	1
Structural Work.....	41	37	38
Miscellaneous.....	15	14	17
Unknown.....	2	3	1

Length of Current Spell of Insured Unemployment

1-4 Weeks.....	43	50	44
5-14 Weeks.....	48	41	47
15 Weeks and over.....	9	9	9