

Alaska Wage Rates

excerpted by J. Penelope Goforth

Alaska Wage Rates for Selected Occupations 1992 is the 17th edition of the annual wage rate survey conducted by the Alaska Department of Labor (DOL), Research and Analysis. The survey began in 1975 in response to requests from employers facing an economy made volatile by the construction of the oil pipeline. Since 1975, DOL Research and Analysis staff has annually published (with the exception of 1976) the results of the wage rate survey.

Survey approach

Wage rates were collected during the summer of 1992 for 173 occupations. Occupations and employers were chosen from several sources including the joint federal/state Occupational Employment Statistics survey (OES), the state's Occupational Data Base (ODB) and from user input. Firms selected for the wage rate sample were the ones most likely to employ the occupations that were included in the survey. Federal, state and local government employers were not included.

Employers were mailed questionnaires and asked 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, and any union affiliation of workers. DOL Research and Analysis staff made a minimum of two mail-outs as well as telephone calls to nonrespondents in an effort to provide the most accurate wage information for the largest number of occupations.

Survey responses are voluntary, and, while every effort was made to obtain wage information from private sector employers, some chose not to respond. Professional and management salaries are traditionally the hardest to obtain. These salaries are highly competitive and employers are reluctant to offer this information.

Definitions for all the occupations queried in the survey are included in the publication.

Survey response rate and results

A total of 1,461 employers with businesses located in all of the six economic regions of the state responded to the 1992 survey. (See inside back cover.) The response rate to the survey was 59%, up from 54% in 1991 and 51% in 1990. Wage rates were collected for 32,694 employees in 173 occupations. This sample represented 12.5% of Alaska's July 1992 nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

To ensure confidentiality of wage rate information, each occupation which appears in the Tables 1.1 through 1.7 in the publication was reported for at least 15 workers by a minimum of seven employers or 30 workers by five employers. A total of

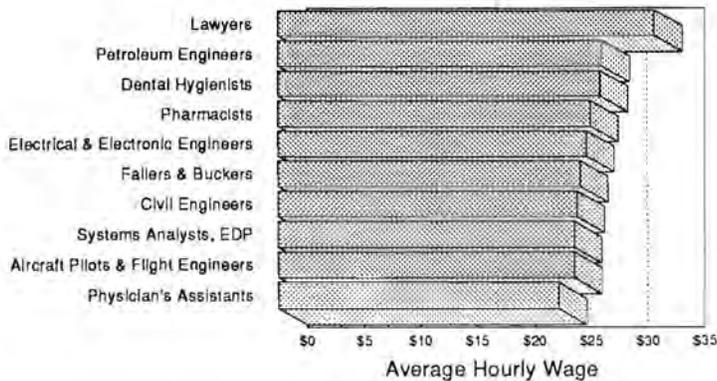
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Highlights

- Of the 20 occupations which had workers earning the top average nonunion wage, 15 were professional, paraprofessional and technical workers.
- Service workers accounted for one-half of the 20 occupations which had the lowest average nonunion wage. Further, service workers represented eight of the ten lowest-paid occupations. Each of these eight occupations is employed in the food service industry.
- Nonunion wages increased in 1992 for 91, or 61.5%, of the 148 occupations for which these wages were reported in both 1991 and 1992. Increases ranged from .3% to 23.3%.
- Nonunion wages fell in 1992 for 56, or 37.8%, of the 148 occupations for which these wages were reported in both 1991 and 1992. Decreases ranged from .2% to 52.7%.
- Union wages fell for eight, or 38.1%, of the 21 occupations reported for both years.
- Union wages were higher than average nonunion wage rates in all but one of the 21 occupations for which both union and nonunion wages were reported.

Figure • 1

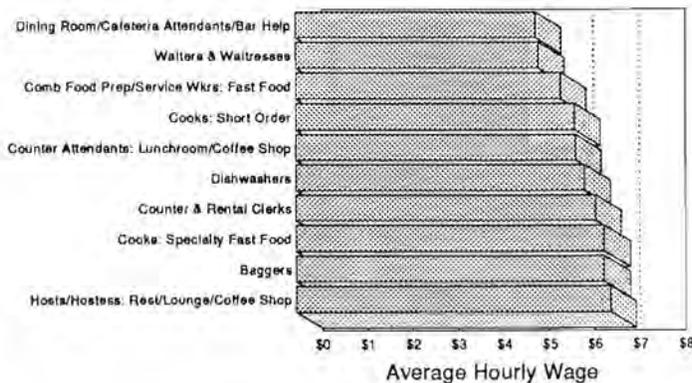
10 Occupations with Highest Average Wage* Alaska 1992



*Total of 159 surveyed occupations.
 Source: Alaska Wage Rates 1992, Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Figure • 2

10 Occupations with Lowest Average Wage* Alaska 1992



*Total of 159 surveyed occupations.
 Source: Alaska Wage Rates 1992, Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

159 occupations representing 29,625 employees met at least one of these criteria.

This is the sixth year that “weighted average” wage rates have been published. Each hourly wage is weighted by the number of employees in an occupation earning that wage rate. The result is an arithmetic mean (or average) wage rate for all employees—across all firms—for each occupation.

Alaska Employment Service data

In addition to the results of the Alaska wage rate survey presented in Chapter One, Alaska Employment Service data are presented in Chapter Two.

The Alaska Employment Service receives job orders at given wage rates for specific job openings. In general, job openings listed with the Alaska Employment Service are entry-level positions. The Alaska Employment Service data represent only wage offers. Actual wages paid are often a compromise between wages offered by management and those asked for by job seekers. Employers using the Alaska Employment Service to advertise job openings respond to shifts in the supply of labor or in the demand for their product by offering lower or higher wages than those in a prior market. Therefore, changes in the average wage offered by employers through Alaska Employment Service orders may reveal movements or trends in the statewide economy. (See Table 1.)

Other sources of wage information

There are two other primary sources of Alaska wage information which interested readers may wish to obtain.

- *Laborers' and Mechanics' Minimum Rates of Pay (Wage and Hour Administration Pamphlet No. 600)* lists about 20 major mechanic, laborer, and field surveyor classifications plus numerous subclassifications. This booklet gives the minimum wage rates to be paid for each classification by a contractor or subcontractor who performs work on public construction in Alaska. Two geographic areas, north of N63 latitude and south of N63 latitude, are covered. The listed rates are often referred to as prevailing wage rates established under AS 36.05 or Alaska's “Little

Davis-Bacon Act." The rates are determined by the Alaska Department of Labor, Division of Labor Standards & Safety, as prevailing wages for work of a similar type in the geographic region in which the work is done.

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has maintained wage rate records since 1860. The BLS, an arm of the U.S. Department of Labor, conducts area wage surveys for over 100 areas of the United States. The federal agency's Alaska survey includes 29 occupational classifications.

The strength of BLS wage surveys is three-fold: they are conducted in a consistent manner with common definitions of occupations; they solicit data from many areas; and they have solicited the data over many years. As a result, BLS data can be used to compare the wage rates in different areas of the U.S. Further, the data provide a historical series and can be used to demonstrate trends in the wage rates.

T a b l e • 1

**Average Wage Rates of Job Orders Statewide
Alaska Employment Service July 1991-1992**

	No. of Openings	Avg. Hourly Wage (\$)		No. of Openings	Avg. Hourly Wage (\$)
MANAGERS and ADMINISTRATORS			Electrical & Electronic Engineers	18	21.16
Administrative Services Managers	98	11.65	Employment Interviewers	33	12.72
Communication/Transportation/Utility Mgr	15	18.16	Farm & Home Management Advisors	16	9.66
Education Administrators	32	16.10	Foresters & Conservation Scientists	18	10.07
Food Service & Lodging Managers	64	8.39	Human Services Wkrs	23	9.29
General Managers & Top Executives	34	13.80	Instructional Coordinators	24	15.90
Medicine & Health Services Managers	17	17.34	Nurses: Licensed Practical	35	12.21
Property & Real Estate Managers & Admin	18	10.40	Nurses: Registered	112	15.73
All Oth Managers & Administrators	183	14.32	Photographers	16	6.32
PROFESSIONAL, PARAPROFESSIONAL and TECHNICAL			Producers/Directors/Actors/Oth Entertain	27	8.27
Accountants & Auditors	50	16.36	Psychologists	15	15.08
Announcers: Radio & Television	22	7.70	Purchase Agents, Ex Wholesale/Retail/Farm	16	11.80
Biologic/Ag/Food Tech/Technols, Ex Health	58	9.18	Recreation Wkrs	153	9.59
Biological Scientists	41	11.87	Social Wkrs, Ex Medical/Psychiatric	101	11.43
Civil Engineers	18	14.76	Social Wkrs: Medical & Psychiatric	47	12.34
Compliance Off/Enforce Inspect, Ex Const	63	14.59	Surveying & Mapping Techs/Technols	22	13.69
Designers, Ex Interior	29	7.20	Systems Analysts, EDP	15	13.40
Drafters	18	11.42	Teacher Aides: Paraprof	114	9.22
			Teachers: All Oth Post Secondary	19	12.66

Table • 1 (cont.)

**Average Wage Rates of Job Orders Statewide
Alaska Employment Service July 1991-1992**

	No. of Openings	Avg. Hourly Wage (\$)		No. of Openings	Avg. Hourly Wage (\$)
Teachers: Elementary School	44	14.61	Postal Mail Carriers	22	9.30
Teachers: Preschool & Kindergarten	71	7.21	Production Clerks	16	7.77
Teachers: Secondary School	20	11.55	Receptionists	511	7.39
Teachers: Special Education	45	11.46	Reservation/Transportation Ticket Agents	81	8.47
Teachers: Vocational Education/Training	17	13.02	Secretaries: Ex Legal & Medical	421	9.73
Urban & Regional Planners	18	14.91	Secretaries: Legal	49	10.71
Vocational & Educational Counselors	81	12.08	Statistical Clerks	49	8.73
All Oth Engineering Techs/Technols	15	10.19	Stenographers	19	9.66
All Oth Phys/Life Sci Techs/Technols	50	11.32	Stock Clerk:Stock/Warehouse/Storage Yard	305	6.79
All Oth Professional/Technical/Paraprof	534	12.26	Supervisors/Managers: Clerical/Admin Sup	31	11.73
All Oth Social Scientists	25	10.10	Switchboard Opers	38	7.07
All Oth Teachers & Instructors	64	11.98	Tellers	144	7.42
SALES			Traffic, Shipping & Receiving Clerks	49	7.20
Cashiers	1,016	6.35	Transportation Agents	16	8.79
Counter & Rental Clerks	100	6.39	Typists, Include Word Processing	224	10.12
Demonstrators, Promoters & Models	143	16.02	All Oth Clerical/Admin Support Wkrs	189	8.58
Newspaper/Phone/Door-to-Door Sales	186	6.02	SERVICE		
Sales Agents: Advertising	26	7.13	Amusement & Recreation Attendants	112	6.20
Sales Agents: Selected Business Services	20	10.89	Baggage Porters & Bellhops	20	5.41
Sales Reps, Ex Scientific Prod & Retail	93	7.38	Bakers: Bread & Pastry	19	6.56
Salespersons: Parts	62	6.90	Bartenders	161	7.12
Salespersons: Retail	1,369	6.37	Butchers & Meat Cutters	25	9.18
Stock Clerks: Sales Floor	133	6.42	Child Care Wkrs	313	6.01
Supervisors & Managers: Sales	39	8.39	Comb Food Prep/Service Wkrs: Fast Food	303	5.18
All Oth Sales Reps/Persons: Service	16	5.38	Cooks: Institutional & Cafeteria	176	9.98
All Oth Sales Wkrs	301	6.35	Cooks: Restaurant	461	7.46
CLERICAL and ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT			Cooks: Short Order	17	6.80
Bill & Account Collectors	28	7.91	Cooks: Specialty Fast Food	179	6.47
Billing, Cost & Rate Clerks	39	10.10	Correction Officers & Jailers	27	12.29
Bookkeeping,Accounting & Auditing Clerks	422	9.01	Counter Attendants:Lunchroom/Coffee Shop	299	5.68
Central Office Opers	25	7.92	Dental Assistants	25	12.40
Computer Opers, Ex Peripheral Equip	32	11.11	Detectives & Investigators, Ex Public	15	11.84
Customer Service Reps: Utilities	23	9.22	Dining Room/Cafeteria Attendant/Bar Help	195	5.60
Data Entry Keyers	80	10.00	Fire Fighters	92	9.20
Dispatchers: Police/Fire/Ambulance	25	10.59	Food Preparation Wkrs	1,296	6.49
File Clerks	78	7.65	Food Servers, Ex Restaurant	52	7.80
General Office Clerks	799	7.97	Forest Fire Inspectors & Prevention Spec	23	8.25
Hotel Desk Clerks	161	6.20	Guards & Watch Guards	176	7.09
Interviewing Clerks, Ex Personnel	45	9.58	Guides	38	8.90
Library Assistants & Bookmobile Drivers	35	8.35	Home Health Aides	33	8.03
Mail Clerks, Ex Mail Mach/Postal Service	70	8.08	Hosts/Hostess: Rest/Lounge/Coffee Shop	85	5.97
Messengers	128	6.51	Housekeepers	28	7.23
Order Clerks	65	6.08	Housekeeping Cleaners	615	6.64
Payroll & Timekeeping Clerks	24	9.23	Janitors/Cleaners, Ex Maid/House Cleaner	856	7.17
Personnel Clerks	21	10.65	Nursing Aides/Orderlies/Attendants	50	10.38
			Police Patrol Officers	44	12.93

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Alaska Employment Service July 1991-1992**

	No. of Openings	Avg. Hourly Wage (\$)		No. of Openings	Avg. Hourly Wage (\$)
Psychiatric Aides	21	9.62	Meat/Poultry/Fish Cutters/Trimmers: Hand	2,279	5.75
Waiters & Waitresses	866	5.34	Mechs & Repairs Helpers	93	8.40
All Oth Clean/Bldg Svc Wkrs, Ex Private	34	8.90	Mechs: Aircraft	33	15.15
All Oth Protective Service Wkrs	36	9.63	Mechs: Automotive	103	12.55
All Oth Service Supervisors	51	8.89	Mechs: Bus/Truck & Diesel Engine Spec	33	13.03
All Oth Service Wkrs	751	7.68	Mechs: Mobile Heavy Equip, Ex Engine	77	16.53
			Millwrights	89	17.94
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY and FISHING			Mine Cutting/Channeling Mach Opers	23	15.58
Animal Caretakers, Ex Farm	36	6.47	Operating Engineers	120	15.21
Choker Setters	179	12.38	Ordinary Seamen & Marine Oilers	17	10.28
Fallers & Buckers	49	17.46	Painters/Paperhangers: Const/Maint	135	9.97
Farm Equipment Opers	23	6.28	Parking Lot Attendants	37	5.84
First Line Spvs: Ag,Forest,Fish Related	22	15.35	Plumbers, Pipefitters & Steamfitters	79	15.31
Forest & Conservation Wkrs	107	8.94	Pressing Mach Opers: Textile, Garment	26	6.42
Gardeners & Groundskeepers, Ex Farm	182	7.20	Production Testers,Graders,Sorters,Weigh	136	6.35
General Farm Wkrs	16	6.43	Rail-Track Laying/Maintenance Equip Wkrs	81	11.49
Lawn Maintenance Wkrs	50	7.59	Roofers	39	12.81
Nursery Wkrs	112	6.37	Roustabouts	130	11.98
All Oth Agricultural/Forestry/Fishing	1,201	7.86	Service Station Attendants	167	5.63
All Oth Timber Cutting & Related Occs	79	13.59	Sewing Mach Opers: Non-Garment	24	7.98
			Small Engine Specialists	24	9.33
PRODUCTION/CONSTRUCTION/OPERATING/ MAINTENANCE/MATERIAL HANDLING			Stevedores, Ex Equipment Opers	29	6.93
Assemblers/Fabricators,Ex Mach/Elect	77	8.01	Supervisors: Const/Extractive Wkrs	37	17.64
Automotive Body Repairs	27	10.44	Supervisors: Mechs/Installs/Repairs	16	17.21
Bindery Mach Opers	43	6.02	Supervisors: Production/Operating Wkrs	161	8.77
Brick Masons	17	14.25	Supervisors: Trans/Material Moving Mach	17	18.05
Bus Drivers	182	8.92	Taxi Drivers & Chauffeurs	53	6.79
Cannery Wkrs	3,179	6.18	Tel/Cable TV Line Installs & Repairs	23	11.73
Captains: Water Vessel	26	18.86	Tire Repairs & Changers	34	7.60
Carpenters	448	13.64	Truck Drivers: Heavy or Tractor Trailer	223	11.07
Concrete & Terrazzo Finishers	23	18.81	Truck Drivers:Light,Include Deliver/Rout	81	7.96
Cutting & Slicing Mach Opers	288	5.99	Vehicle Washers & Equipment Cleaners	593	5.48
Driver/Sales Wkrs	120	8.54	Welders & Cutters	146	15.48
Drywall Installs	21	10.04	All Oth Const Trades Wkrs	2,151	8.83
Electricians	133	17.63	All Oth Extractive Wkrs, Ex Helpers	9	15.12
Electronic Repairs: Commercial/Indust	24	13.69	All Oth Freight/Material Movers: Hand	4,572	7.13
Grader, Dozer & Scraper Opers	33	13.32	All Oth Hand Wkrs	98	7.85
Hand Packers & Packagers	121	6.42	All Oth Help/Labor/Material Movers: Hand	1,078	7.71
Heating,Air Conditioner/Refrig Mechs/Ins	21	10.37	All Oth Inspectors, Testers & Related	12	10.17
Helpers: All Oth Const Trades	1,022	8.06	All Oth Mach Opers & Tenders	129	7.26
Hoist & Winch Opers	45	15.30	All Oth Material Moving Equip Opers	77	13.38
Industrial Truck & Tractor Opers	36	11.13	All Oth Mechs & Repairs	145	12.28
Laundry/Drycleaning Mach Opers, Ex Press	33	6.28	All Oth Plant & System Opers	24	15.77
Locksmiths & Safe Repairs	74	8.58	All Oth Precision Wkrs	78	9.53
Mach Feeders & Offbearers	73	6.39	All Oth Supervisors: Prod/Const/Maint	2	6.46
Machinists	37	16.51	All Oth Transportation Wkrs	139	8.07
Maintenance Repairs: General Utility	265	10.22	TOTAL LISTED	39,926	8.07