

Nonresidents Working in Alaska in 1985

By Betsy Jensvold

The Alaska Department of Labor recently published the annual resident hire report. The report contains data about non-resident wages and workers in Alaska, as well as information about the reasons employers hire nonresidents, alternative ways of promoting resident hire, and progress towards implementing resident hiring preferences on state-funded construction projects. This article highlights some of the information contained in that report.

Highlights from *Nonresidents Working in Alaska in 1985*.

- In 1985, \$691 million was paid to 77,000 nonresident workers in Alaska. This represents an increase of \$14 million and 6,000 employees over 1984 (tables 1 and 2).
- The average annual Alaska earnings of nonresidents was 43% of the average annual earnings of residents of Alaska (down from 48% in 1984); however, nonresidents did not spend as much time working in Alaska as residents (table 3).
- 1984 and 1985 data are strikingly similar. Although nonresident wages and workers increased in 1985, their percentage impact by industry and area changed only slightly.
- Oil and gas paid the highest total wages to nonresidents in 1985 and the second highest in 1984 (table 4).
- Heavy construction ranked the highest in total wages to nonresidents in 1984 and the second highest in 1985; however, construction as a whole (heavy construction, building construction, and special trades construction) paid more than oil and gas in both years (table 4).
- Food processing (with 94% of the firms in seafood processing) had the highest number of nonresident employees (13,512 in 1985), the highest proportion of wages paid to nonresidents (55% in 1985), and the highest proportion of employees who were nonresidents (68% in 1985) (tables 5 and 6).
- The Anchorage-MatSu Region had the highest number of nonresident employees (33,492 in 1985) and the highest amount of nonresident wages (\$282 million in 1985), but the lowest proportion of nonresident employees (21% in 1985). In contrast, the Southwest Region had only 7,438 nonresident employees in 1985 and although

it had the highest proportion of nonresident employees (38% in 1985) (table 7).

- Alaska has unique economic conditions compared to other states. In 1985, Alaska had the fifth highest overall unemployment rate in the nation, the third highest for all nonagricultural industries, the highest in manufacturing and government, and the sixth highest in construction. Alaska also had one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation for many major occupational categories.
- Nearly 22% of all regular unemployment insurance benefits paid by Alaska in 1985 were mailed to out-of-state addresses. This is the highest interstate rate in the nation, approximately 4.5 times the national average. Seventy-four percent of those interstate payments were to nonresidents.

Sources and Limitations of Data

Wage and employee data were developed by crossmatching 1985 wage records from the Alaska Department of Labor with 1985 and 1986 permanent fund dividend records from the Alaska Department of Revenue. Workers were considered residents if they received a 1985 dividend or filed for a 1986 dividend.

Data (except where otherwise stated) were drawn from Alaska Department of Labor wage records, and as such, do not include federal employees or workers who are not covered by unemployment insurance. Employees not covered by unemployment insurance include self-employed workers, most fishermen, full commission salespersons, agricultural workers, domestic workers, unpaid family workers, private railroad workers, elected and appointed public officials, and some employed students.

This report provides data about **employees**, not **employment**. **Employees** are the individual people who worked for wages during a specific period of time; **employment** is the number of filled jobs at a particular point in time. Because not all jobs are filled throughout the year and different individuals may work in the same position at different periods of time, **employee** counts exceed **employment** totals given in other publications, especially when comparing annual data. Approximately 70% more individuals work in Alaska over a year's time than the annual average number of jobs.

Employees and wages are counted in the census area of the employer's primary business location even though employees may actually work in another part of the state. This seriously skews the data for state government workers. Consequently, state workers are included in statewide data but excluded from region and census area data. Also,

Table 1
Total Resident and Nonresident Wages
For Each Quarter and Year
Alaska 1984 and 1985

| | 1984 | | | 1985 | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | Resident | Nonresident | % of Total | Resident | Nonresident | % of Total |
| | Wages (thous) | Wages (thous) | % of Total | Wages (thous) | Wages (thous) | % of Total |
| Anytime During the Year | \$5,105,893 | \$677,088 | 11.7 | \$5,207,993 | \$691,726 | 11.7 |
| 1st Quarter | 1,179,066 | 149,236 | 11.2 | 1,205,671 | 137,084 | 10.2 |
| 2nd Quarter | 1,277,718 | 169,161 | 11.7 | 1,324,940 | 170,319 | 11.4 |
| 3rd Quarter | 1,335,162 | 222,936 | 14.3 | 1,342,319 | 236,533 | 15.0 |
| 4th Quarter | 1,313,947 | 135,755 | 9.4 | 1,335,063 | 147,790 | 10.0 |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

Table 2
Total Resident and Nonresident Employees
for Each Quarter and Year
Alaska 1984 and 1985

| | 1984 | | | 1985 | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Resident | Nonresident | % of Total | Resident | Nonresident | % of Total |
| | Number of Employees | Number of Employees | % of Total | Number of Employees | Number of Employees | % of Total |
| Anytime During the Year | 256,143 | 71,076 | 21.7 | 252,058 | 77,126 | 23.4 |
| 1st Quarter | 182,713 | 25,130 | 12.1 | 188,085 | 25,977 | 12.1 |
| 2nd Quarter | 201,381 | 35,785 | 15.1 | 204,953 | 39,120 | 16.0 |
| 3rd Quarter | 213,295 | 44,769 | 17.3 | 212,155 | 49,503 | 18.9 |
| 4th Quarter | 201,867 | 28,524 | 12.4 | 200,601 | 31,790 | 13.7 |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

employees and wages are counted in the industry of the employer from whom they earned the most wages.

Displacement of Resident Workers

As part of the study, an analysis of the displacement of workers in the construction industry was prepared. Evidence compiled suggests that in some occupations there were qualified Alaskans available to fill many of the positions occupied by nonresident workers in 1984 and 1985.

Table 8 and 9 lists the estimated number of nonresidents working in selected construction occupations during each calendar quarter of 1984 and 1985, and the number of Alaska residents with experience in those occupations who collected unemployment insurance compensation during that same quarter. This information provides a general indication of displacement of residents by nonresidents.

The data in Table 8 and 9 show that during each quarter of 1984 and 1985 there were several thousand Alaskans receiving unemployment insurance benefits who may have been qualified to fill positions occupied by nonresidents. The figures tend to overstate the number of nonresidents working and the number of residents qualified and available for work at any given time. Many of the positions held by nonresidents, however, were not highly skilled or highly technical and could probably have been filled by unemployed Alaskans.

Status of Resident Hire Employment Preferences

In 1986, the Fourteenth Alaska Legislature passed a resident hire statute for public-funded construction; the statute is complex and substantially different from previous versions. The legislature emphasized the need to pass a law that would withstand a test of its constitutionality. Consequently, the new statute uses a very targeted approach based on detailed statistical information.

Before any hiring preferences can be implemented, determinations must be made as to which geographic areas of the state qualify for preference based on specific criteria. Three distinct types of data are required: data about overall economic conditions, specific data about the displacement of resident workers by nonresidents, and data about the social and economic consequences of unemployment. Before determinations can be made, regulations must be approved and data compiled.

At this time, regulations have been drafted and reviewed through the public hearing process but not finalized. Data have been compiled which illustrate the overall economic condition of each area of the

Table 3
Total Quarters Worked in Alaska
1984 and 1985

| Total Quarters Worked | 1984 | | 1985 | |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| | Resident | Nonresident | Resident | Nonresident |
| One Quarter | 14.4% | 45.4% | 11.0% | 44.8% |
| Two Quarters | 16.4% | 29.3% | 14.9% | 29.9% |
| Three Quarters | 15.6% | 14.1% | 16.4% | 14.5% |
| Four Quarters | 53.6% | 11.2% | 57.6% | 10.9% |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

Table 4
Ten Industries with the Highest Wages Paid to Nonresidents
Alaska 1984 and 1985

| Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) | 1984 Resident | | 1985 Nonresident | |
|--|---------------|------|------------------|------|
| | Wages (thous) | Rank | Wages (thous) | Rank |
| Heavy Construction | \$105,154 | 1 | \$ 74,009 | 2 |
| Oil and Gas | 71,585 | 2 | 106,646 | 1 |
| Food Processing | 58,079 | 3 | 61,964 | 3 |
| Special Trades Construction | 51,096 | 4 | 41,574 | 4 |
| Building Construction | 45,439 | 5 | 34,146 | 5 |
| Business Services | 29,731 | 6 | 33,222 | 6 |
| Local Government | 28,135 | 7 | 31,747 | 7 |
| Miscellaneous Services | 26,942 | 8 | 23,410 | 10 |
| Eating and Drinking Places | 24,477 | 9 | 27,111 | 9 |
| Air Transportation | 22,157 | 10 | 22,165 | 11 |
| State Government | 20,171 | 11 | 28,217 | 8 |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

For a more detailed analysis of the impact of nonresidents in 1985 see *Nonresidents Working in Alaska in 1985*, January 1987. For an analysis of the impact of nonresidents in 1984 see *Nonresidents Working in Alaska: A Special Study to Measure the Economic Impact of Nonresidents on Alaska's Economy During Calendar Year 1984*, January 1986. For information on the history of the resident hire issue see *Alaska Economic Trends, August 1985*.

Table 5
Ten Industries With Over \$1 Million in Wages
and the Highest Percentage of Wages Paid to Nonresidents
Alaska 1984 and 1985

| Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) | Resident | 1984 Nonresident | | | Resident | 1985 Nonresident | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|------|
| | Wages (thous) | Wages (thous) | % of Total | Rank | Wages (thous) | Wages (thous) | % of Total | Rank |
| Food Processing | \$ 50,904 | \$ 58,079 | 53 | 1 | \$ 50,462 | \$61,964 | 55 | 1 |
| Nonclassifiable 2/ | 6,729 | 3,088 | 31 | 2 | 11,082 | 4,702 | 30 | 3 |
| Heavy Construction | 254,276 | 105,154 | 29 | 3 | 199,691 | 74,009 | 27 | 7 |
| Miscellaneous Repair | 15,684 | 6,483 | 29 | 4 | 15,408 | 5,140 | 25 | 8 |
| Metal Mining 1/ | 13,210 | 4,895 | 27 | 5 | 12,621 | 5,046 | 29 | 4 |
| Fishing, Hunting, Trapping 1/ | 3,374 | 1,172 | 26 | 6 | 4,069 | 2,175 | 35 | 2 |
| Nonmetal/Nonfuel Mining | x | x | x | 7 | x | x | 27 | 6 |
| Logging | 25,441 | 7,928 | 24 | 8 | 28,916 | 10,898 | 27 | 5 |
| Agricultural Services | 4,688 | 1,303 | 22 | 9 | 5,684 | 1,205 | 17 | 13 |
| Building Construction | 187,022 | 45,439 | 20 | 10 | 143,687 | 34,146 | 19 | 12 |
| Transportation Equip Mfg | 1,807 | 435 | 19 | 11 | 2,217 | 605 | 21 | 10 |
| Water Transportation | 38,390 | 8,583 | 18 | 12 | 37,733 | 10,401 | 22 | 9 |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

Note: "x" indicates that information is nondisclosable.

1/ Data include only nonagricultural wage and salary employees covered by unemployment insurance. Consequently, data provided for this industry may not be representative of the industry as a whole.

2/ Not classified in any other industry.

Table 6
Ten Industries With Over 200 Employees
and the Highest Percentage of Nonresident Employees
Alaska 1984 and 1985

| Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) | 1984 | | | | 1985 | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|------|
| | Resident Number of Employees | Nonresident Number of Employees | % of Total | Rank | Resident Number of Employees | Nonresident Number of Employees | % of Total | Rank |
| Food Processing | 6,615 | 12,068 | 65 | 1 | 6,431 | 13,512 | 68 | 1 |
| Nonclassifiable 2/ | 920 | 767 | 45 | 2 | 1,119 | 608 | 35 | 5 |
| Metal Mining 1/ | 611 | 373 | 38 | 3 | 511 | 326 | 39 | 4 |
| Logging | 1,204 | 715 | 37 | 4 | 1,296 | 864 | 40 | 3 |
| Fishing, Hunting, Trapping 1/ | 330 | 177 | 35 | 5 | 348 | 285 | 45 | 2 |
| Heavy Construction | 8,800 | 4,094 | 32 | 6 | 7,182 | 3,770 | 32 | 12 |
| Eating and Drinking Places | 17,376 | 7,473 | 30 | 7 | 17,793 | 8,838 | 33 | 8 |
| Nonmetal/Nonfuel Mining | x | x | x | 8 | x | x | 35 | 6 |
| Business Services | 9,294 | 3,990 | 30 | 9 | 9,670 | 3,926 | 29 | 17 |
| Agricultural Services | 499 | 207 | 29 | 10 | 538 | 242 | 31 | 13 |
| Recreation Services | 1,369 | 553 | 29 | 11 | 1,866 | 773 | 33 | 9 |
| Motion Pictures | 491 | 125 | 20 | 27 | 375 | 178 | 32 | 10 |
| Transportation Equip Mfg | 123 | 66 | 35 | * | 146 | 77 | 35 | 7 |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

Note: "x" indicates that information is nondisclosable.

Note: "*" indicates that the total number of employees was not large enough to meet the minimum cut off for ranking on this table.

1/ Data include only nonagricultural wage and salary employees covered by unemployment insurance. Consequently, data provided for this industry may not be representative of the industry as a whole.

2/ Not classified in any other industry.

state; however, data about occupational supply and demand are not currently available in enough detail to demonstrate that nonresident workers have displaced qualified, available resident workers in specific occupations and specific areas of the state. Consequently, the Department of Labor has begun implementation of a new system designed to collect the required information. Data about the social and economic impact of unemployment are available through a variety of sources which will be analyzed in depth later this year. The department expects to be able to make determinations for most construction-related occupations by January 1988.

Employer Comments on Resident Hire

In 1986 the Alaska Department of Labor surveyed a small number of employers in ten industries which paid high amounts of wages to nonresidents in 1984 and 1985. The purpose of this survey was to learn reasons why employers hire nonresidents and to ask employers for their ideas about ways to promote the hiring of Alaska residents. Firms were selected to represent the extremes within each industry: those with the highest and those with the lowest percentage of nonresident employees and wages. Responses were obtained from a total of 74 firms, with at least six respondents from each selected industry.

Employers were asked to provide reasons why their industry hires nonresidents (unprompted response). Employers were then read a prepared list of possible reasons for hiring nonresidents and asked if any of those reasons applied to their industry (prompted response).

Sixty percent of employers contacted said their industries hire nonresidents because available Alaskans lack required training or experience. This was the most frequently cited reason in construction, mining, and service industries. Thirty-five percent of employers contacted stated that their industries hire nonresidents because there are no Alaskans available, a reason commonly mentioned by employers in food processing.

Fifty percent of employers contacted stated that their industries hire nonresidents because it is company policy to transfer people within the company, a frequent response by employers in mining industries.

Nineteen percent of employers felt that the ability to pay lower wages was a reason to hire nonresidents. Sixteen percent of employers indicated that nonresidents worked harder or had better work attitudes than residents.

Employers stated they often promote the hiring of residents by having a company resident hire policy; by advertising openings locally;

Table 7
Percent Nonresident Wages and Employees by Geographic Zone
1984 and 1985

| Geographic Zone | Wages Paid to Nonres as a % of Total | | Nonresident Employees as a % of Total | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------|------|
| | 1984 | 1985 | 1984 | 1985 |
| Alaska Statewide | 12.6 | 11.7 | 22.8 | 23.4 |
| Anchorage-MatSu Region | 9.0 | 9.6 | 19.2 | 20.7 |
| Anchorage Borough | 9.1 | 9.7 | 19.4 | 20.8 |
| MatSu Borough | 7.1 | 7.0 | 15.7 | 18.5 |
| Gulf Coast Region | 14.3 | 14.9 | 28.5 | 32.3 |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough | 11.9 | 13.5 | 22.2 | 27.3 |
| Kodiak Island Borough | 21.8 | 18.8 | 39.0 | 40.2 |
| Valdez-Cordova | 14.4 | 16.9 | 33.2 | 37.9 |
| Interior Region | 12.7 | 12.1 | 21.2 | 23.2 |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | 13.0 | 12.3 | 22.0 | 24.0 |
| Southeast Fairbanks | 8.5 | 9.8 | 20.7 | 20.3 |
| Yukon-Koyukuk | 9.2 | 9.9 | 13.4 | 16.0 |
| Northern Region | 25.5 | 22.4 | 26.9 | 25.1 |
| Nome | 10.0 | 9.5 | 13.0 | 15.0 |
| North Slope Borough | 28.0 | 24.9 | 33.3 | 30.5 |
| Northwest Arctic Borough | 9.5 | 7.7 | 10.8 | 12.4 |
| Southeast Region | 11.2 | 13.1 | 23.3 | 27.2 |
| Haines Borough | 11.4 | 18.0 | 16.9 | 32.3 |
| Juneau Borough | 8.3 | 9.3 | 18.9 | 21.6 |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough | 9.0 | 10.8 | 18.9 | 22.2 |
| Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan | 17.3 | 17.9 | 27.6 | 30.5 |
| Sitka Borough | 7.9 | 8.5 | 16.5 | 19.4 |
| Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon | 25.4 | 27.6 | 38.1 | 43.4 |
| Wrangell-Petersburg | 20.2 | 25.0 | 38.0 | 42.7 |
| Southwest Region | 24.2 | 24.2 | 37.6 | 37.6 |
| Aleutian Islands | 41.6 | 41.4 | 62.6 | 60.9 |
| Bethel | 8.4 | 9.7 | 12.8 | 15.5 |
| Bristol Bay Borough | 42.7 | 39.0 | 60.0 | 58.8 |
| Dillingham | 30.7 | 30.0 | 45.6 | 46.5 |
| Wade Hampton | 4.5 | 6.6 | 8.8 | 12.3 |
| Geographic Area Unknown | 27.2 | 39.5 | 46.4 | 58.6 |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

Note: State government wages and employees are excluded from all regions and census areas but included at the statewide level.

Table 8
Nonresidents Employed and Residents Available for Work
by Quarter in Selected Construction Occupations
Alaska 1984

| Occupation Title (Dictionary of Occupational Titles) | Quarter 1 | | Quarter 2 | | Quarter 3 | | Quarter 4 | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp |
| MECHANICS/MACHINE REPAIR | | | | | | | | |
| Motor Vehicle Mechanics | 128 | 509 | 161 | 392 | 174 | 302 | 131 | 481 |
| Engine, Transmission Mechanics | 81 | 152 | 87 | 117 | 103 | 98 | 87 | 135 |
| Misc. Machine Repair | 57 | 138 | 94 | 115 | 63 | 94 | 49 | 122 |
| Other Related Occupations | 1 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| METAL FABRICATION | | | | | | | | |
| Fitting, Bolting Occupations | 81 | 204 | 101 | 193 | 158 | 121 | 114 | 163 |
| Sheet Metal | 90 | 53 | 80 | 64 | 95 | 51 | 71 | 69 |
| Other Related Occupations | 9 | 22 | 7 | 15 | 8 | 12 | 11 | 22 |
| WELDERS,CUTTERS & RELATED | | | | | | | | |
| Other Related Occupations | 137 | 309 | 168 | 266 | 166 | 205 | 136 | 272 |
| ELECTRICAL INSTALLING & REPAIR | | | | | | | | |
| Transmission, Distrib. Line Inst. | 43 | 133 | 54 | 122 | 87 | 44 | 71 | 95 |
| Installation, Repair Transp. Equip. | 5 | 10 | 7 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 9 |
| Installation, Repair Lg. Appliance | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| Other Related Occupations | 33 | 99 | 27 | 87 | 40 | 51 | 38 | 87 |
| PAINTING, PLASTERING, CEMENTING | | | | | | | | |
| Construction Painters | 43 | 170 | 54 | 152 | 55 | 114 | 38 | 193 |
| Plasterers | 24 | 54 | 40 | 50 | 47 | 37 | 33 | 43 |
| Cement, Concrete Finishers | 24 | 136 | 101 | 117 | 134 | 50 | 87 | 109 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| EXCAVATING, GRADING, PAVING | | | | | | | | |
| Excavating, Grading | 47 | 283 | 94 | 194 | 111 | 89 | 87 | 238 |
| Paving, Asphalt, & Concrete | 5 | 30 | 20 | 28 | 24 | 9 | 11 | 33 |
| Other Related Occupations | 407 | 1,518 | 798 | 1,161 | 988 | 608 | 691 | 1,351 |
| OTHER CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Carpenters | 502 | 1,865 | 684 | 1,692 | 869 | 1,058 | 593 | 1,524 |
| Brick, Stone, & Tile Setters | 9 | 55 | 47 | 54 | 47 | 21 | 33 | 41 |
| Plumbers, Fitters, & Related Occup. | 493 | 355 | 530 | 384 | 545 | 281 | 327 | 353 |
| Asbestos, Insulation | 19 | 13 | 27 | 12 | 24 | 12 | 17 | 12 |
| Floor Laying, Finishing | 9 | 21 | 7 | 18 | 16 | 11 | 6 | 14 |
| Glaziers | 19 | 18 | 21 | 18 | 16 | 13 | 17 | 16 |
| Roofers | 28 | 77 | 40 | 71 | 64 | 35 | 49 | 59 |
| Other Related Occupations | 696 | 3,440 | 1,093 | 3,078 | 1,264 | 1,918 | 811 | 2,934 |
| MOTOR FREIGHT OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Truck Driver, Heavy | 133 | 1,022 | 241 | 854 | 277 | 478 | 207 | 830 |
| Truck Driver, Light | 9 | 111 | 14 | 101 | 24 | 69 | 17 | 91 |
| OTHER TRANSPORTATION OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Other Related Occupations | 5 | 28 | 7 | 28 | 8 | 16 | 6 | 31 |
| PACKAGING & MATERIALS HANDLING | | | | | | | | |
| Hoisting & Conveying | 28 | 222 | 80 | 158 | 103 | 119 | 60 | 184 |
| Other Related Occupations | 38 | 282 | 80 | 218 | 87 | 173 | 55 | 257 |
| MINERAL EXTRACTION OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Earth Boring, Drilling & Related | 28 | 224 | 47 | 191 | 55 | 168 | 49 | 158 |
| TOTAL FOR SELECTED OCCUPATIONS | 3,232 | 11,557 | 4,779 | 9,965 | 5,669 | 6,272 | 3,920 | 9,936 |
| TOTAL NONRESIDENTS WORKING FOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES | 4,737 | | 6,706 | | 7,903 | | 5,444 | |

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis

Table 9
Nonresidents Employed and Residents Available for Work
by Quarter in Selected Construction Occupations
Alaska 1985

| Occupation Title (Dictionary of Occupational Titles) | Quarter 1 | | Quarter 2 | | Quarter 3 | | Quarter 4 | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp | Nonres Emp | Res Unemp |
| MECHANICS/MACHINE REPAIR | | | | | | | | |
| Motor Vehicle Mechanics | 86 | 538 | 121 | 661 | 140 | 459 | 96 | 687 |
| Engine, Transmission Mechanics | 23 | 162 | 23 | 214 | 29 | 134 | 20 | 229 |
| Misc. Machine Repair | 6 | 126 | 17 | 172 | 36 | 158 | 20 | 157 |
| Other Related Occupations | 0 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 3 |
| METAL FABRICATION | | | | | | | | |
| Fitting, Bolting Occupations | 39 | 173 | 69 | 207 | 125 | 127 | 86 | 168 |
| Sheet Metal | 49 | 85 | 63 | 104 | 73 | 64 | 51 | 123 |
| Other Related Occupations | 3 | 24 | 5 | 26 | 14 | 17 | 10 | 19 |
| WELDERS, CUTTERS & RELATED | | | | | | | | |
| Other Related Occupations | 116 | 268 | 156 | 352 | 169 | 277 | 107 | 342 |
| ELECTRICAL INSTALLING & REPAIR | | | | | | | | |
| Transmission, Distrib. Line Inst. | 29 | 95 | 34 | 112 | 81 | 31 | 66 | 80 |
| Installation, Repair Transp. Equip. | 3 | 9 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Installation, Repair Lgt. Appliance | 0 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 14 |
| Other Related Occupations | 16 | 131 | 34 | 163 | 44 | 102 | 40 | 106 |
| PAINTING, PLASTERING, CEMENTING | | | | | | | | |
| Construction Painters | 26 | 226 | 40 | 295 | 66 | 181 | 51 | 196 |
| Plasterers | 16 | 51 | 23 | 87 | 29 | 54 | 10 | 83 |
| Cement, Concrete Finishers | 36 | 136 | 81 | 152 | 110 | 60 | 81 | 153 |
| EXCAVATING, GRADING, PAVING | | | | | | | | |
| Excavating, Grading | 29 | 229 | 69 | 229 | 66 | 121 | 56 | 235 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Paving, Asphalt, & Concrete | 3 | 30 | 34 | 30 | 36 | 11 | 25 | 44 |
| Other Related Occupations | 366 | 1,374 | 754 | 1,538 | 914 | 788 | 622 | 1,719 |
| OTHER CONSTRUCTION OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Carpenters | 402 | 1,951 | 725 | 2,348 | 1,003 | 1,380 | 724 | 1,692 |
| Brick, Stone, & Tile Setters | 23 | 66 | 40 | 68 | 59 | 32 | 40 | 60 |
| Plumbers, Fitters, & Related Occup. | 259 | 485 | 363 | 578 | 435 | 376 | 260 | 805 |
| Asbestos, Insulation | 6 | 23 | 17 | 35 | 29 | 24 | 15 | 20 |
| Floor Laying, Finishing | 13 | 18 | 11 | 19 | 14 | 17 | 10 | 19 |
| Glaziers | 16 | 29 | 17 | 31 | 14 | 20 | 10 | 25 |
| Roofers | 23 | 96 | 52 | 122 | 66 | 53 | 45 | 95 |
| Other Related Occupations | 476 | 3,416 | 1,061 | 4,163 | 1,364 | 2,576 | 902 | 3,370 |
| MOTOR FREIGHT OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Truck Driver, Heavy | 96 | 925 | 208 | 1,110 | 280 | 623 | 168 | 998 |
| Truck Driver, Light | 9 | 146 | 17 | 201 | 22 | 140 | 15 | 168 |
| OTHER TRANSPORTATION OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Other Related Occupations | 3 | 35 | 5 | 59 | 7 | 59 | 5 | 44 |
| PACKAGING & MATERIALS HANDLING | | | | | | | | |
| Hoisting & Conveying | 39 | 244 | 63 | 280 | 81 | 193 | 45 | 343 |
| Other Related Occupations | 29 | 299 | 58 | 379 | 89 | 254 | 35 | 339 |
| MINERAL EXTRACTION OCCUPATIONS | | | | | | | | |
| Earth Boring, Drilling & Related | 29 | 154 | 58 | 312 | 66 | 170 | 45 | 200 |
| TOTAL FOR SELECTED OCCUPATIONS | 2,269 | 11,554 | 4,208 | 13,973 | 5,431 | 8,525 | 3,660 | 12,245 |
| TOTAL NONRESIDENTS WORKING FOR CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES | 3,330 | 5,803 | 7,378 | 5,100 | | | | |
| Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis | | | | | | | | |

Note: The occupational profile of nonresidents working in construction is derived from those nonresidents who filed an unemployment claim. That profile was then applied to the total nonresident labor pool working in construction during each quarter. Approximately, 42.5 percent of all nonresidents working in construction had filed a UI claim from which to derive their occupational code.

or by using local unions, Job Service offices, local private employment agencies or universities to find workers.

Employers feel the State should promote resident hire by publicizing the issue and working actively to train and place resident workers. This process has already started in the seafood processing industry. The seafood industry is working with the Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Securities Division, through its Job Service offices to advertise and recruit Alaska residents for seafood processing jobs.

Ideas for Promoting Alaska Hire

The 1986 Alaska Hire Task Force report presented 36 approaches for promoting resident hire in Alaska. The report, a compilation of ideas from state agencies and a variety of sources outside of state government, was intended primarily for policy makers to use as a reference of new ideas and initiatives on resident hire.

The proposals described in the report are wide-ranging in nature and approach the issue of resident hire from many different directions. Some of the proposals are relatively narrow in focus, while others involve significant economic, legal, or political considerations.

Proposals include loan program incentives, expansion of job service networks, oil industry training programs, resident hire incentive programs, and expanded bidder preference. A more detailed description of these and other proposals are available upon request from the Alaska Department of Labor's research and analysis unit.

Summary

Although most Alaskans support the idea of hiring residents, there is substantial disagreement over exactly what role the State should play. Most agree that the State should actively promote the idea of resident hire and work to train and place resident workers.

The Alaska Department of Labor is now collecting data to support the legislative decision making process, and to support implementation of resident hiring preference. Other actions, such as in-state contractor bidding preferences, "Buy-Alaska" legislation, and tax or loan incentives, are more controversial. Nevertheless, the Alaska legislature is actively considering a variety of approaches.