

## STATEWIDE IN ALASKA

Highlights: Preliminary population data released by the Bureau of the Census indicate an increase of 30.3% in the State's population from 226,170 in 1960 to 294,607 in 1970. However, indications are that final figures will place this State's population at the 300,000 level. Large percentage changes did not occur in any one area, but were distributed throughout the State. Regional increases were greatest in the Kenai-Cook Inlet-Anchorage areas of the Southcentral Region. Few areas noted population declines and those that did occur were relatively minor.

Components of Population Change: Preliminary census data appear to verify population estimates made by the Department of Labor's Research and Analysis Section. From this, it can be inferred that the identification of the components of population change used to estimate population growth are reliable. Natural increase (births minus deaths) contributed to the greatest percentage growth in population, with net in-migration accounting for only about five of the 30.3 percent gain.

Although the rate of in-migration will increase during the 1970's with the developing oil industry, natural growth will provide the greatest contribution to population growth. It is thus expected that Alaska will also continue to have a relatively young population, and that population will increase at a greater rate than the workforce. This young population, if properly trained, should be adequate to fill many of the job demands of the 1970's.

ACB Rural Alaska Data Now Available: Manpower Resources fliers are now available presenting population, workforce and occupational information on 18 rural Alaskan villages. The information is based on surveys conducted in March, April and May of this year. A flier on Nome, the first in the Resources series, was released in June.

Information is based by village on a summary of individual questionnaires retrieved from the Applicant Characteristics Bank System. Statistics on age, worker availability, educational attainment, training and income grouping are made available in the fliers. The willingness of the rural Alaskan to move, either temporarily or permanently, for employment or training, is also indicated. This is the first time information of this sort has been published on most of the villages.

Fliers are available for the following villages: Alakenuk, Chevak, Emmonak, Gambell, Hooper Bay, Kiana, Kotlik, Kwethluk, Lower Kalskag, Napaskiak, Nome, Noorvik, Nunapitchuk, Point Hope Savoonga, Selawik, Toksook Bay, Tununak, and Unalakleet.

For more detailed information, or to obtain flier copies, contact:

Applicant Characteristics Bank  
Research and Analysis Section  
Employment Security Division  
Alaska Department of Labor  
P. O. Box 3-7000  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Port Facilities in Homer to be Expanded: The city of Homer, on the Kenai Peninsula, has received a \$336,000 grant, and loan from the Economic Development Administration. The money will be used to help develop port and fisheries facilities in the community. Total cost of the project will be around \$420,000. The expanded dockage is expected to create in excess of 50 new jobs for area residents. The improvements will allow shipment of seafood products from Homer by water instead of overland as is now done.

Since the upgraded port facilities will provide an anchorage for ocean going freighters and tankers, they may have the important side effect of lowering the Homer area's cost of living. Presently freight and other commodities bound for Homer must be unloaded in other ports and trucked overland to Homer. With improved port facilities it will be possible to ship goods directly to the community by water. This will reduce the amount that the cargo is handled, thereby lowering shipping costs. Since freight costs are largely responsible for the high cost of living experienced in virtually all Alaskan communities, lowering freight costs should cause a decline in Homer's cost of living.

Alaska's Herring Fishery on the Rise: Due to a strong demand on the the Japanese market for salt cured herring roe, Alaska's herring fishery is undergoing a resurgence. 1/ The herring fishery itself dates back to the late 1800's when herring salteries were first built along Alaska's coast. By 1922 salted herring production had reached 36 million pounds annually. However, poor market conditions during the 1930's started a decline in production which continued until 1950 when, for all practical purposes, the industry ceased to exist. During 1964, in response to demands on the Japanese specialty market, some 23,000 pounds of processed roe were produced. The product proved so successful that the following year production increased to nearly 200,000 pounds. By 1968 close to 300,000 pounds of roe, valued in excess of \$500,000, were produced in seven Alaska processing plants.

Indications are that the fishery is continuing to expand. Although total figures for 1970's roe production are not yet available, in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays alone, some 1,500 tons of herring were caught. If all of this catch were to be utilized for roe processing, production of roe from this area alone would have amounted to about 270,000 pounds during 1970. Total employment figures for herring roe processing are also unavailable. However, it is known that some of the larger processing plants are employing in excess of 90 persons.

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1/ Background data for this article was taken from the article "Herring Roe: Alaska's Fast Growing Specialty Food Industry" by Jerrold M. Olson, which appeared in the magazine Commercial Fisheries Review for July of 1970. (Vol 32, No. 7)

Fish Hatchery for Petersburg: A new State fish hatchery is to be built near Petersburg. The facility, which is to be financed by a \$3 million bond issue passed in 1968, will utilize the latest techniques in fish culture. In its initial development stage, the hatchery will be capable of rearing about 100,000 pounds of fingerling smolt per year. In terms of numbers of fish this would be upwards of nine million king salmon smolt annually. The fish, reared at the facility, will be used to increase sport and commercial stocks in Southeast Alaska. This could have considerable long term affect on the area's fishing and fish processing industries in view of the declining levels of both king and silver salmon runs over the past few years.

Large Copper Deposit Sought: A copper find of yet undetermined value in Canada's Dawson Range has sparked a flurry of mineral exploration activity along the Alaskan side of the Canada-Alaska border. According to the October issue of Alaska Construction and Oil Magazine, operations are centered in the highlands between the Tanana and Yukon River systems. The helicopter borne exploration parties are seeking copper bearing low grade formations similar to the large low grade strip mine deposits of the Southwestern United States.

Total Employment: Total estimated employment fell by 100 from July to August as economic activity in Alaska began its seasonal decline. If the seasonal trend noted in previous years is followed, employment should continue to fall for the remainder of the year hitting its winter low point during January of 1971.

Mining: Employment in mining rose by 300 over the month. Largely responsible for the gain was the arrival of an immense seaborne shipment of oil industry cargo at Prudhoe Bay. This resulted in temporary hires of between 300 and 400 persons to handle unloading operations. Oil exploration activity in the area took a sharp drop during the month with the completion or suspension of a number of wells that had previously been active.

Elsewhere, both in Alaska and off its coasts, a good deal of seismic exploration was taking place. Reports indicate that some seven geophysical vessels operating out of Nome were plying the Bering and Chukchi Seas this past summer making seismic profiles of off-shore geological formations. The oil and gas potential of this area was confirmed last summer during an off-shore seismic survey conducted by the Federal Government. In addition, Humble Oil and Refining Company is reported to be doing a helicopter survey of off-shore areas near Saint Lawrence Island from a base near Teller. In the Interior, Geophysical Service Inc. is conducting a marine seismic survey down the Yukon with work to continue until the river freezes.

The oil industry outlook is for most off-shore geophysical activity to terminate by mid to late October as weather worsens off Alaska's coasts. This should be offset by an increase in drilling and geophysical operations on the North Slope once the surface of the tundra freezes solid. However, some North Slope drilling plans on Federal acreage may have to be curtailed due to unavailability of gravel for drilling pad construction. The shortage results from the land freeze which, among other things, places restrictions on the sale of gravel from Federal lands to private companies. If drilling plans are, in fact, hindered by these restrictions, oil industry employment will probably stay below year ago levels through the winter.