

The Trends 100 — Alaska's Largest Private Employers in 1989

By Neal Fried and Holly Stinson

Trends 50 Doubles to Trends 100

The size of our list of Alaska's largest employers doubled this year. Alaska's Trends 50, published during the past three years, is expanded this year to include Alaska's 100 largest private sector employers. This expanded list increases the diversity of firms listed, introduces more dynamics in the changes in rankings, and provides more information on Alaska's largest employers. (See Table 1.)

Large Employers Come In All Sizes, From All Places, And From All Industries

The state's largest employers have always been a diverse group and doubling the list has made it that much more eclectic. Represented are such locally-owned companies as Carr-Gottstein Inc. with 2,586 employees and such far-flung multinational corporations as British Petroleum Exploration with 1,492 workers. Employment levels of Alaska's Trends 100 vary from the number one employer, ARCO Alaska Inc. with 2,855 employees, to Central Peninsula General Hospital with 203 employees. These employers are in all areas of the state, in both small and large communities. Every major industry category is represented this year.

Employment with Trends 100 Firms Grew Faster than Total Private Sector

Alaska's Trends 100 private employers represent only 1% of the employers in the state; however, they account for 30% of all private sector wage and salary employment. Not only do Alaska's largest firms employ a disproportionate number of Alaska's work force, but their employment has grown more vigorously than overall private sector employment. The Trends 100's employment grew by nearly 10% in 1989 compared to a 7.6% growth in the overall private sector economy. Obviously, Alaska's largest employers are recovering from the recent recession very nicely.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Employment data were obtained from the unemployment insurance reports which every employer in the state with one or more employees must file. Employment figures reported are the total number of people working during the payroll period which includes the 12th of each month regardless of how many hours they worked.

Total employment of a parent company will not be captured, and therefore not appear in the Top 100, if subsidiaries file unemployment insurance reports under separate account numbers.

Major Business Activity is determined by the principal products or services rendered by a business establishment, as reported by the establishment to the Department of Labor.

Annual average employment is calculated by summing the 12 monthly figures reported to the Alaska Dept. of Labor and dividing the total by 12.

Confidentiality laws protect employment information. Therefore it was necessary to receive permission from each employer to release their employment information. This year, two employers refused to grant permission. The actual Top 100 would have included one employer from the construction industry and one services firm.

Table 1

Alaska's Top 100 Employers

(Based on 1989 average employment)

1989 Rank	1988 Rank	Firm and Headquarters or Largest Site (Business Activity)	1989 Average Employment	1989 Rank	1988 Rank	Firm and Headquarters or Largest Site (Business Activity)	1989 Average Employment
1	1	ARCO Alaska Inc., Anchorage <i>Oil & Gas Production</i>	2,855	20	-	Pay'n Save Drug Stores, Anchorage <i>Retail-general merchandise</i>	607
2	5	VECO Inc., Anchorage <i>Oil Field Services</i>	2,659	21	-	Norcon Inc., Anchorage <i>Construction</i>	585
3	2	Carr Gottstein Inc., Anchorage <i>Retail-grocery</i>	2,586	22	21	Sears Roebuck & Co., Anchorage <i>Retail-general merchandise</i>	528
4	3	Providence Hospital, Anchorage <i>Hospital</i>	1,668	23	20	Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, Anchorage <i>Credit Union</i>	527
5	4	BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., Anchorage <i>Anchorage-Oil & Gas Production</i>	1,492	24	22	Nordstrom Inc., Anchorage <i>Retail-general merchandise</i>	490
6	7	National Bank of Alaska, Anchorage <i>Banking</i>	1,075	25	57	Unisea Inc., Unalaska <i>Seafood Processing</i>	487
7	10	Ketchikan Pulp Company, Ketchikan <i>Pulp & Lumber Products</i>	903	26	24	Union Oil Co. of California, Anchorage <i>Oil & Gas Production</i>	467
8	6	Safeway Stores Inc., Anchorage <i>Retail-grocery</i>	901	27	32	ERA Aviation Inc., Anchorage <i>Air Carrier</i>	465
9	9	Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., Anchorage <i>Pipeline</i>	881	28	27	Alaska Pulp Corp., Sitka <i>Pulp & Lumber Products</i>	463
10	12	Alaska Airlines Inc., Anchorage <i>Air Carrier</i>	878	29	26	JC Penney Co., Anchorage <i>Retail-general merchandise</i>	442
11	13	Trident Seafoods Corporation, Akutan <i>Seafood Processing</i>	872	30	31	Alaska Commercial Co., Anchorage <i>Retail-general merchandise</i>	437
12	14	MarkAir, Anchorage <i>Air Carrier</i>	806	31	42	Anchorage Times Publishing Co., Anchorage <i>Newspaper</i>	435
13	16	Icicle Seafoods Inc., Petersburg <i>Seafood Processing</i>	782	32	-	Kinn Enterprises/McDonalds, Anchorage <i>Retail-eating establishments</i>	420
14	11	Alascom Inc., Anchorage <i>Communications</i>	773	33	48	Alaska Petroleum Contractors Inc., Anchorage <i>Oil Field Services</i>	407
15	17	First National Bank of Anchorage, Anchorage <i>Banking</i>	698	33	33	Captain Cook Hotel, Anchorage <i>Hotel</i>	403
16	15	Westmark Hotels Inc., Anchorage <i>Hotel</i>	671	35	-	Peter Pan Seafoods Inc., King Cove <i>Seafood Processing</i>	403
17	-	Western Health Network Inc., Fairbanks 1/ <i>Hospital</i>	648	36	28	Tanana Chiefs Conference Inc., Fairbanks <i>Social Services</i>	402
18	19	Fred Meyer Shopping Centers, Anchorage <i>Retail-general merchandise</i>	637	37	46	Key Bank of Alaska, Anchorage <i>Banking</i>	395
19	18	Humana Hospital Alaska Inc., Anchorage <i>Hospital</i>	625	38	34	Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage <i>Newspaper</i>	393

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1989 Rank	1988 Rank	Firm and Headquarters or Largest Site (Business Activity)	1989 Average Employment	1989 Rank	1988 Rank	Firm and Headquarters or Largest Site (Business Activity)	1989 Average Employment
38	35	Burger King, Anchorage <i>Retail-eating establishments</i>	393	58	80	Alyeska Seafoods Inc., Unalaska <i>Seafood Processing</i>	292
38	36	Lamonts Inc., Anchorage <i>Retail-apparel</i>	393	58	79	NANA/Marriott Joint Venture, Anchorage <i>Food Services/Catering</i>	292
41	30	Klukwan Forest Products Inc., Juneau <i>Logging</i>	383	60	59	Alaska Sales & Service Inc., Anchorage <i>Motor Vehicle Dealer</i>	290
42	-	HC Price Co., Anchorage <i>Construction</i>	364	61	68	Pizza Hut, Anchorage <i>Retail-eating establishments</i>	289
43	37	Felec Services Inc., Fairbanks <i>Radar Station Operator</i>	362	61	-	Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage <i>Hotel</i>	289
44	40	Dynair Services Inc., Anchorage <i>Transportation</i>	361	63	62	Delta Air Lines Inc., Anchorage <i>Air Carrier</i>	270
45	58	Laidlaw Transit Inc., Anchorage <i>Transportation</i>	359	64	55	Anchorage Cold Storage Co., Anchorage <i>Wholesale-grocery</i>	269
46	49	Anchorage Hilton Corp., Anchorage <i>Hotel</i>	348	64	53	ARA Services Inc., Fairbanks <i>Retail-caterer</i>	269
47	38	Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp., Bethel <i>Health Care</i>	347	66	61	Mayflower Contract Services Inc., Anchorage <i>Transportation</i>	264
48	65	Northstore Ventures/7-11, Anchorage <i>Retail-grocery</i>	346	67	-	Inlet Fisheries Inc., Kenai <i>Seafood Processing</i>	262
49	29	Salvation Army Alaska Division, Anchorage <i>Social Services</i>	345	68	78	Manillaq Association Inc., Kotzebue <i>Social Services</i>	259
50	46	Chugach Electric Association Inc., Anchorage <i>Electric Utility</i>	344	69	60	Market Basket Inc., Fairbanks 2/ <i>Retail-grocery</i>	253
51	44	Wards Cove Packing Co. Inc., Naknek <i>Seafood Processing</i>	335	70	81	Norton Sound Health Corp., Kotzebue <i>Health Care</i>	249
52	52	Spenard Builders Supply, Anchorage <i>Trade-Lumber Products</i>	330	71	64	Duty Free Shoppers Limited Partnership, Anch. <i>Retail-general merchandise</i>	248
53	39	Sea-Land Freight Service, Anchorage <i>Shipping & Warehousing</i>	327	72	74	Green Alaska Inc., Anchorage 3/ <i>Construction</i>	246
54	50	Our Lady of Compassion Care Center, Anchorage <i>Health Care</i>	315	73	67	Matanuska Telephone Association Inc., Palmer <i>Communications</i>	242
55	54	Reeve Aleutian Airways Inc., Anchorage <i>Air Carrier</i>	307	73	72	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corp., Juneau <i>Health Care</i>	242
56	70	All Alaskan Seafoods Inc., Kodiak <i>Seafood Processing</i>	303	75	-	Western Atlas International Inc., Anchorage <i>Oil & Gas Exploration</i>	240
57	41	North Pacific Processors Inc., Cordova <i>Seafood Processing</i>	295	76	71	International In-Flight Catering Co., Anchorage <i>Retail-eating establishments</i>	236

Table 1 (cont from page 3)

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(Based on 1989 average employment)

1989 Rank	1988 Rank	Firm and Headquarters or Largest Site (Business Activity)	1989 Average Employment	1989 Rank	1988 Rank	Firm and Headquarters or Largest Site (Business Activity)	1989 Average Employment
77	76	Ketchikan General Hospital, Ketchikan Hospital	234	90	-	Price Savers Membership Warehouse, Anchorage Wholesale-general merchandise	211
78	84	Hope Cottages Inc., Anchorage Residential Care	233	91	83	Enstar Natural Gas Co., Anchorage Natural gas distribution	209
79	-	O. Kraft & Son Inc., Kodiak Retail-grocery	232	91	90	Peak Oilfield Service Co., Prudhoe Bay Oil Field Services	209
79	91	Valley Hospital, Palmer Hospital	232	91	82	Telephone Utilities of the Northland, Anchorage Communications	209
81	95	Costco Wholesale Corp., Anchorage Wholesale-general merchandise	227	94	89	Queen Fisheries Inc., Kodiak Seafood Processing	207
82	63	Pacific Rim Restaurants Inc., Anchorage Retail-eating establishments	223	95	93	Temsco Helicopters Inc., Ketchikan Air Carrier	206
83	-	Greens Creek Mining Co., Juneau Mining	222	96	-	Charter North Hospital Inc., Anchorage Hospital	205
84	73	Golden Frontier Enterprises/McDonalds, Fairbanks Retail-eating establishments	219	96	7	Lutheran Hospital & Homes Society, Fairbanks ^{1/} Health Care	205
85	-	Purcell Services Ltd., Anchorage Security	218	98	-	Central Peninsula General Hospital, Soldotna Hospital	203
86	92	Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage College	216	98	77	Kinney Shoe Corp., Anchorage Retail-footwear	203
87	98	Northern Air Cargo Inc., Anchorage Air Cargo	215	98	-	Whitestone Logging, Inc., Hoonah Logging	203
88	-	Denali Foods Inc./Taco Bell, Anchorage Retail-eating establishments	213				
89	66	Marriott Corp., Anchorage Retail-caterer	212				

^{1/} In 1988, Lutheran Hospital and Homes Society and Western Health reported employment under one unemployment insurance account.

^{2/} Now SuperValu.

^{3/} Formerly Green Construction Co.

We would like to thank the 100 employers in this article for their cooperation, without which this article would not have been possible.

Most Are Headquartered In Anchorage...But Employment Is Statewide

Sixty-seven of Alaska's 100 largest employers have their headquarters or largest work sites in Anchorage. All of the construction, oil and financial institutions found on the Trends 100 list are headquartered in Anchorage.

Although a majority of the firms are located in Anchorage, this only tells part of the geographic story. The other 33 have their headquarters or largest work sites elsewhere in the state. Seven

are located in Fairbanks and nine are found in Southeast. Nearly all of the Trends 100 employers in the manufacturing sector are in Southeast or elsewhere along the coast because of fishing and timber activities.

While it's significant that a majority of the firms are located in Anchorage, more important is the fact that they employ workers elsewhere in the state. For example, nearly half of ARCO's employment is on the North Slope. National Bank of Alaska has offices in 30 Alaskan communities. All of the construction companies have staff in

Anchorage but most of their jobs are at construction sites scattered throughout the state. Less than 20 employers in the Trends 100 have employees exclusively in Anchorage—for the rest a substantial number of their workers are employed elsewhere in the state.

Payroll of Trends 100 is \$1.7 Billion

Total payroll paid out by Alaska's largest employers grew from \$1.3 billion in 1988 to \$1.7 billion in 1989—another indicator of a strong recovery. Not only do the Trends 100 employ a disproportionate share of the state's work force, but they also pay an even larger share of the state's private sector payroll — 39%, to be exact. The average monthly wage paid by these employers also grew from \$2,619 in 1988 to \$2,996 in 1989. Oil spill wages helped bolster both the average and total payroll. Both of the primary oil spill contractors, VECO and Norcon, made the list in 1989.

Most Firms are in Mining, Services and Trade

The three industries with the largest share of the Trends 100 employment pie are mining (18%), services (19%), and trade (25%). (See Figure 1.) The manufacturing and transportation, communications and utilities industries each account for 15% of Trends 100 employment. The finance-insurance and real estate sector has 6% (down from 9% in 1988) and the construction industry has 2% of Trends 100 employment.

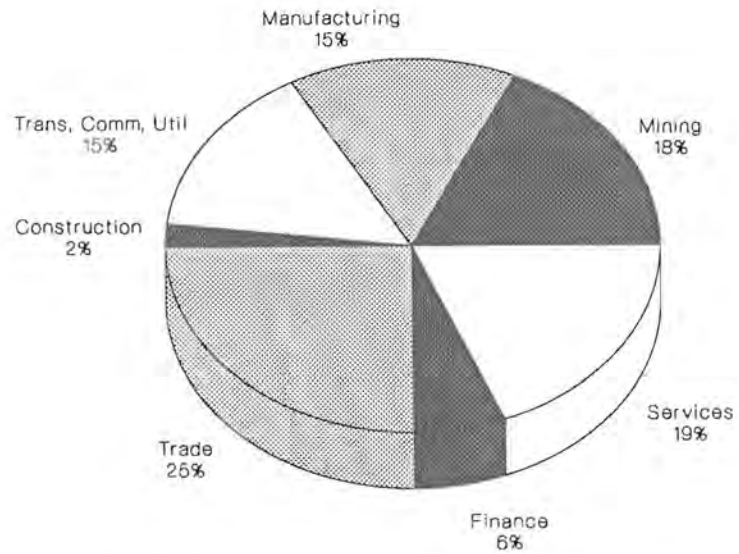
By separating 1989's Trends 100 employers into industry groups, a trend on firm size becomes evident. The mining industry (particularly oil and gas mining) tends to be dominated by a few large companies because of the nature of the business.

Over 80% of Mining Jobs are with Trends 100 Firms

The mining industry as a whole has over 80% of its employment concentrated in the Trends 100 firms. (See Figure 2.) The oil and gas portion of the mining industry is higher still —

Figure 1

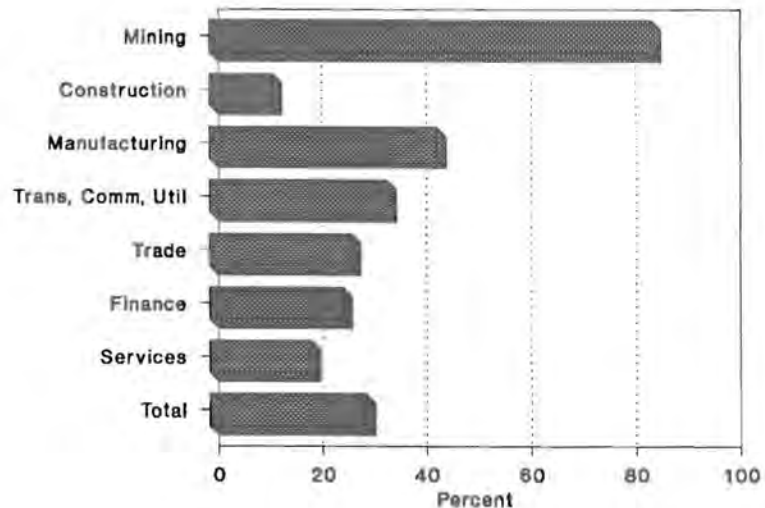
Top 100 Employment by Industry — 1989



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Figure 2

Top 100 Share of 1989 Private Sector Employment



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

Figure 3

TOP 100 EMPLOYERS BY INDUSTRY

Listed by Employment

MINING



ARCO Alaska Inc.
VECO Inc.
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.
Union Oil Co. of California
Alaska Petroleum Contractors Inc.
Western Atlas International Inc.
Greens Creek Mining Co.
Peak Oilfield Service Co.

CONSTRUCTION



Norcon Inc.
HC Price Co.
Green Alaska Inc.

MANUFACTURING

Ketchikan Pulp Company
Trident Seafoods Corporation
Icicle Seafoods Inc.
Unisea Inc.
Alaska Pulp Corp.
Anchorage Times Publishing Co.
Peter Pan Seafoods Inc.
Anchorage Daily News
Klukwan Forest Products Inc.
Wards Cove Packing Co. Inc.
All Alaskan Seafoods Inc.
North Pacific Processors Inc.
Alyeska Seafoods Inc.
Inlet Fisheries Inc.
Queen Fisheries Inc.
Whitestone Logging



FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE

National Bank of Alaska
First National Bank of Anchorage
Alaska USA Federal Credit Union
Key Bank of Alaska



TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES

Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
Alaska Airlines Inc.
MarkAir
Alascom Inc.
ERA Aviation Inc.
Dynair Services Inc.
Laidlaw Transit Inc.
Chugach Electric Association Inc.
Sea-Land Freight Service
Reeve Aleutian Airways Inc.
Delta Air Lines Inc.
Mayflower Contract Services Inc.
Matanuska Telephone Association Inc.
Northern Air Cargo Inc.
Enstar Natural Gas Co.
Telephone Utilities of the Northland
Temsco Helicopters Inc.



92% of employment is with firms ranked in the Trends 100. No other industry approaches this degree of dominance in the Trends 100. The next closest industry is manufacturing, where over 40% of the jobs are with firms included in the Trends 100.

Both of the large operators on the North Slope — ARCO and BP — are among the five largest employers again this year. ARCO Alaska Inc. has been at the top of the *Alaska Economic Trends* list for the four years it has been published.

Union Oil, operating on the Kenai Peninsula, is also included in the list for the fourth year in a row.

Hard Rock Mining is a Newcomer to Trends 100

A newcomer in the mining industry is the Greens Creek Mining Co. This year is the first time a mining company not associated with the oil and gas industry has made the list of large employers. This sector of the

mining industry may well be represented by an additional firm in next year's Trends 100 when a full year's employment at Cominco's Red Dog mine is considered.

Oil Spill Cleanup Affected Trends 100

Four oil field service companies are also in the Trends 100. It is not surprising that one of them, VECO, Inc., jumped into the number two spot. As contractor for the cleanup of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, they

TRADE



Carr Gottstein Inc.
Safeway Stores Inc.
Fred Meyer Shopping Centers
Pay'n Save Drug Stores
Sears Roebuck & Co.
Nordstrom Inc.
JC Penney Co.
Alaska Commercial Co.
Kinn Enterprises/McDonalds
Burger King
Lamonts Inc.
Northstore Ventures/7-11
Spenard Builders Supply
Alaska Sales & Service Inc.
Pizza Hut
ARA Services Inc.
Anchorage Cold Storage Co.
Market Basket Inc.
Duty Free Shoppers Limited
Partnership
International In-Flight Catering Co.
O. Kraft & Son Inc.
Costco Wholesale Corp.
Pacific Rim Restaurants Inc.
Golden Frontier Enterprises/
McDonalds of Fairbanks
Denali Foods Inc./Taco Bell
Marriott Corp.
Price Savers Membership
Warehouse
Kinney Shoe Corp.

SERVICES



Providence Hospital
Westmark Hotels Inc.
Western Health Network Inc. (Fbks
Mem. Hosp.)
Humana Hospital Alaska Inc.
Captain Cook Hotel
Tanana Chiefs Conference Inc.
Felec Services Inc.
Anchorage Westward Hilton Corp.
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp.
Salvation Army Alaska Division
Our Lady of Compassion Care
Center
NANA/Marriott Joint Venture
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
Manillaq Association Inc.
Norton Sound Health Corp.
Southeast Alaska Regional Health
Corp.
Ketchikan General Hospital
Hope Cottages Inc.
Valley Hospital
Purcell Services Ltd.
Alaska Pacific University
Lutheran Hospital & Homes Society
Charter North Hospital Inc.
Central Peninsula General Hospital

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

employed over 3,000 people on the spill alone during the peak months of July and August.

Many other firms in the Trends 100 can attribute some of their increased employment in 1989 either directly or indirectly to the spill cleanup. Air and water carriers, hotels, restaurants and other retail trade firms, are among those impacted by the cleanup efforts. A look at the transportation,

communication and utilities (TCU) category points out this probability.

The majority of the firms (12) in TCU are in the transportation business (See Figure 3.); all six of the air carriers represented here had increased employment in 1989. Hauling people and equipment associated with such an enormous project as the oil cleanup effort surely contributed some of the additional jobs in this group.

Construction Industry is Looking Up

The construction industry, absent from last year's Trends 50 list, now has three firms in the Trends 100. Even without expanding the list to 100 employers, H.C. Price, ranked at #42, would have made a Trends 50 list for 1989 employment. As mentioned earlier, the increase in construction jobs is indicative of a healthier economy.

Seafood Processors Increased Their Share of Manufacturing Jobs

In 1988's Trends 50, the manufacturing firms consisted of two Anchorage newspapers, four companies in the lumber products sector, and five seafood processors. Expanding the list to the Trends 100 added five manufacturing companies — all of them seafood processors. Seafood processors now account for 60% of the manufacturing employment included in the Trends 100. The year-round processing of bottomfish is increasing the annual average employment of many seafood processing firms.

Finance-Insurance & Real Estate Gain Jobs, But Not Firms, In Trends 100

Expanding the list of large employers to 100 didn't bring in any additional employers in finance-insurance and real estate (FIRE). Total employment for the Trends 100 firms in this group increased in 1989. However, it was not enough to offset the gains in other industries; FIRE's share of Trends 100 employment fell 3%. The increased employment, though, is a positive sign in an industry recovering from a financial and real estate recession.

Trade Adds The Most Firms to Trends 100

Trade gained more firms than any other industry when the largest employer list was expanded to 100. Eighteen additional retail and wholesale companies joined last year's same ten; now one of every four Trends 100 employers is in this group. The Trends 100 list includes grocery, clothing and general merchandise stores, eating establishments and catering companies.

Several Large Services Employers in Trends 100

The large service providers included in the Trends 100 are mainly health care providers, large hotels, and social service agencies.

More than 1/3 of the companies doing business in Alaska are in the services industry. They include firms providing business, personal, professional, repair and amusement services and educational institutions. However, only 1.2% of these companies employ more than 100 people. It is an industry characterized by small operations — more than half of the firms have fewer than 4 employees.

Summary — Alaska's Trends 100 Employers Had A Good Year In 1989

With the expansion of our list of the state's largest employers came a more diverse group of employers — size-wise, geographically and in industrial composition. Although a majority of

the Trends 100 companies have their headquarters or largest site in Anchorage, most of them employ workers elsewhere in the state. Further, 1/3 of the firms are located outside of Anchorage.

All of the major industrial categories were present in Alaska's Trends 100 in 1989. In 1988's Trends 50, construction was absent, but by 1989 a construction firm showed up in 42nd place. Another new addition in 1989 was from the hard rock mining industry (Greens Creek), and others will probably follow in future years. The size of Alaska's Trends 100 firms varies from 2,855 to 203 employees. Only six firms have more than 1,000 employees; the average size is 481.

Alaska's Trends 100 businesses represent only a fraction of the employers in the state, but they employ nearly a third of the state's work force. Oil and gas companies in the Trends 100 employ more than 90% of this industry's total work force in the state. In contrast, only 2% of the construction jobs are with firms in the Trends 100. This is because the oil and gas industry is dominated by large firms; in construction, small contractors are predominant and work is more seasonal.

Alaska's Trends 100 firms saw robust employment growth in 1989. Employment with these firms grew much faster than did employment with all private employers, as did payroll and average monthly earnings. Some of this increase came as a result of oil spill activity, but a healthier economy was chiefly responsible for the dramatic improvement in the standing of Alaska's largest employers.

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