

increase in local government employment since last month was offset by a drop of 100 each in state and federal government, while a decrease of 800 in federal government employment from last year was partially offset by an increase of 200 in local government jobs. The large drop in employment since last year in federal government is mainly due to the deactivation of Ladd Air Force Base in March 1961, and employment cutbacks in other Alaskan defense installations.

## HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average weekly earnings in mining, based on the mid-December estimate, are higher than last month but lower than the current month a year ago. Shortage of fuel during December's severe weather required longer hours in fuel mining to supply heat and power for the cold-stricken cities. Contract construction and logging-lumber-pulp both had lower weekly earnings than last month and also lower than December 1960. Curtailed out-of-door activities in these industries accounted for the lower earnings since the previous month as well as the contrast with last December. The earnings in trade, higher than a year ago, were lower than expected since last month, wholesale trade dropping several dollars from last month's average and retail trade gaining only a minor amount. The earnings in finance-insurance-real estate increased over the last month and December 1960. Mining and retail trade had higher average weekly earnings in December than the other months of 1961 except January in mining. Higher average hourly earnings accounted for this increase.

## SPECIAL STUDY

### WHOLESALE TRADE

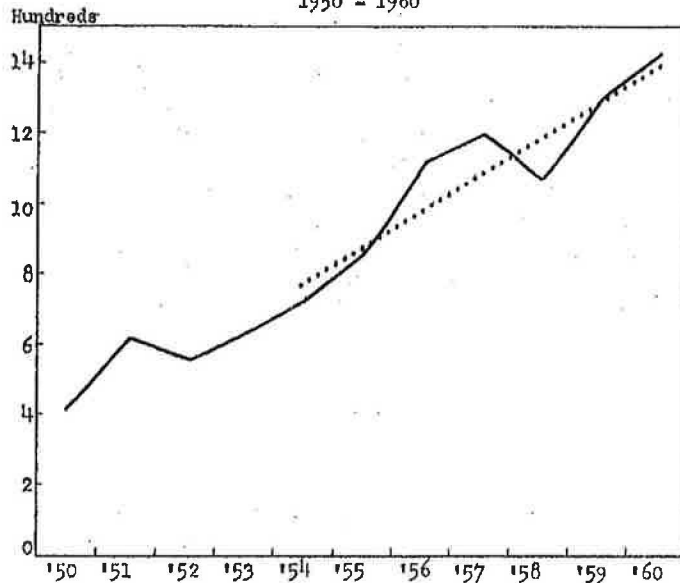
The wholesale trade industry includes all establishments engaged in selling merchandise to retailers, other wholesalers, institutions, restaurants and hotels, and other industrial users. Factors affecting Alaska's wholesale trade potential are varied. The distance from manufacturing centers in other states to the Alaska market, the distances between population centers, limited and seasonal markets, and inadequate transportation routes are some of the reasons for slow beginnings of the wholesale business in Alaska. The earliest important group of merchant wholesalers were those selling groceries, meats and beverages--commodities with rapid turnover and a steady market. As the composition of Alaska's population includes an increasing proportion of permanent residents, retail spending is increasing which in turn creates the need for distribution centers. Drug and pharmaceutical, heating equipment and plumbing suppliers, which were notably lacking a decade ago, are now beginning to appear on the trade scene. Wholesale trade in machinery and mechanical equipment and supplies is growing rapidly as the demand for these products is becoming more widespread and less seasonal. The increase in the size of individual establishments can be estimated

AVERAGE INSURED EMPLOYMENT, YEARLY PAYROLL,  
AND AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME IN ALASKA'S  
WHOLESALE TRADE INDUSTRY  
1939-1960

<u>Year</u>	<u>Average Employment</u>	<u>Yearly Payroll (Millions of \$)</u>	<u>Average Monthly Wage (\$)</u>
1960	1,432	13.5	784
1959	1,313	11.3	717
1958	1,071	8.1	628
1957	1,192	8.8	613
1956	1,101	7.8	590
1955	865	5.5	532
1954	739	4.7	526
1953	698	4.1	531
1952	559	3.2	479
1951	622	3.7	506
1950	437	1.8	349
1949	387	1.4	304
1948	348	1.3	303
1947	353	1.1	261
1946	299	.8	213
1945	224	.6	208
1944	209	.5	198
1943	245	.5	174
1942	215	.5	199
1941	101	.2	166
1940	77	.1	158
1939	99	.2	141

by the following statistics: the number of food and beverage distributors has increased 30 percent from December 1958 to December 1960, while the employment was up 46 percent; commercial machinery wholesalers were up 28 percent in the same two-year period, while the employment in that group increased 58 percent.

AVERAGE STATE UI INSURED EMPLOYMENT IN ALASKA'S  
WHOLESALE TRADE INDUSTRY  
1950 - 1960



The employment graph for the wholesale trade industry follows the trend of the general economic and population recession of the year 1958.

**Payrolls:** The 1960 yearly payroll for the wholesale trade industry was \$13.5 million. There has been a steady growth in average monthly income in the twenty-two year history given in this study. The year 1951 showed a sharp increase in the industry. A 42 percent growth in employment and a 45 percent rise in average income more than doubled the yearly payroll from 1950. From 1951 through 1960 there has been an average yearly increase in the industry's payroll of almost \$1 million. During this time the average monthly paycheck has increased 55 percent while the employment has grown 130 percent. The average monthly wage in wholesale trade for 1960 was \$789 contrasted with \$349 in 1950 and \$158 in 1940.

**Employment:** During 1960 average monthly employment in the wholesale trade industry was 1,432, an increase of 119 over 1959. Since 1939, the earliest year for which data are available, average employment has increased at a fairly steady pace. The average annual employment gain from 1954 to 1960 is 105 jobs, illustrated by the straight line fitted to the historical data. Food and beverage distributors and commercial machinery wholesalers have, at the present time, almost the same number of establishments, but food dealers provide jobs for 50 percent more Alaskans and a little more than 25 percent more payroll than the machinery establishments. U. S. Census data on food purchases indicate, in comparison of 1948 and 1954 data, that Alaska food-store sales rose almost 114 percent and the number of stores less than 10 percent during this period. This shows the increasing size of the wholesale food distributors. The drop in 1951 employment was related to the West Coast shipping strike and other strikes of that year.

YEARLY PAYROLL FOR STATE UI INSURED EMPLOYMENT IN  
ALASKA'S WHOLESALE TRADE INDUSTRY  
1950 - 1960

