

# Alaskans: More Likely to Be Federal Workers Than Other Americans

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by Tom Lane

Federal government employment plays an unusually important role in Alaska. Figure 1 compares the proportion of federal civilian jobs (including civilian military) to total employment in Alaska and the U.S. and highlights several facts:

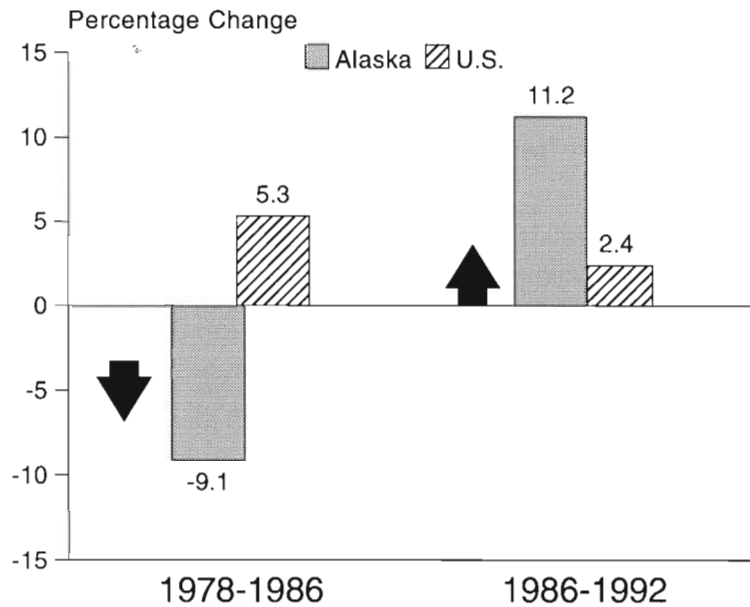
- Federal civilian employment is more important to Alaska than to the U.S. as a whole. Despite the relative decline of federal jobs in Alaska in the early 1980s, the proportion of total jobs that are in federal government is still nearly three times that of the U.S. as a whole.
- Federal jobs were extremely important to Alaska in the late 1970s, representing nearly 12% of the state's total wage and salary employment. Its relative importance declined by about a third in the mid 1980s, as federal services were transferred to private and state agencies and as other employers expanded.
- Federal civilian employment has been slowly but steadily declining in importance in the nation, but has maintained its relative importance in Alaska since the mid 1980s.
- Federal civilian employment served as a stabilizing force in the 1986-87 recession in Alaska as it fared better than other employment.

In the period between the economic lull (1978) after pipeline construction and the Alaskan recession in 1986, the state lost a significant share of federal jobs. (See Figure 2.) After 1986, however, Alaska gained a significant share of nation's new federal jobs. Federal employment increased by 11.2%, more than four and a half times the slow 2.4% growth shown in the U.S. as a whole.

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## Change in U.S. and Alaska Federal Civilian Employment

Figure • 1



Note: Includes civilian military.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

## Federal Jobs Still More Important to Alaska than to U.S.

Figure • 2



Note: Includes civilian military.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

## Federal Funds Distribution by State 1992

Division and State	Federal Funds		Defense	Non-defense	Direct payments to individuals	Procurement	Grants to State and local governments	Salaries and wages
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Per capita <sup>2</sup>						
<b>United States</b>	<b>1,181,373</b>	<b>4,631</b>	<b>226,045</b>	<b>955,328</b>	<b>607,433</b>	<b>199,595</b>	<b>174,448</b>	<b>160,510</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>4,035</b>	<b>6,875</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>2,489</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>1,584</b>
<b>New England</b>	<b>66,779</b>	<b>5,059</b>	<b>13,918</b>	<b>52,861</b>	<b>34,009</b>	<b>12,842</b>	<b>11,282</b>	<b>6,277</b>
Maine	6,533	5,288	1,927	4,606	3,179	1,399	1,047	807
New Hampshire	4,281	3,854	635	3,646	2,335	499	935	399
Vermont	2,167	3,803	140	2,027	1,262	124	503	224
Massachusetts	32,832	5,473	6,664	26,168	16,224	6,861	5,218	2,922
Rhode Island	5,066	5,040	868	4,198	2,834	524	986	597
Connecticut	15,900	4,846	3,684	12,216	8,175	3,434	2,593	1,329
<b>Middle Atlantic</b>	<b>173,954</b>	<b>4,588</b>	<b>17,614</b>	<b>156,340</b>	<b>103,030</b>	<b>17,686</b>	<b>32,815</b>	<b>16,141</b>
New York	83,923	4,632	7,180	76,743	47,107	8,170	19,305	7,031
New Jersey	34,313	4,405	4,824	29,489	20,711	4,366	5,217	3,576
Pennsylvania	55,718	4,640	5,610	50,108	35,212	5,150	8,293	5,534
<b>East North Central</b>	<b>161,500</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>14,775</b>	<b>146,725</b>	<b>100,878</b>	<b>14,513</b>	<b>26,373</b>	<b>15,264</b>
Ohio	43,514	3,950	5,156	38,358	26,418	4,949	7,064	4,228
Indiana	19,980	3,529	2,551	17,429	12,105	1,832	3,242	1,936
Illinois	44,412	3,818	3,171	41,241	27,888	3,102	6,937	5,157
Michigan	35,752	3,789	2,570	33,182	23,182	3,183	6,004	2,605
Wisconsin	17,842	3,564	1,327	16,515	11,286	1,447	3,127	1,339
<b>West North Central</b>	<b>79,174</b>	<b>4,408</b>	<b>11,549</b>	<b>67,625</b>	<b>41,779</b>	<b>9,483</b>	<b>11,629</b>	<b>9,315</b>
Minnesota	16,806	3,751	1,812	14,994	9,002	1,897	2,894	1,496
Iowa	11,397	4,052	653	10,744	6,772	721	1,660	819
Missouri	26,093	5,025	5,272	20,821	13,105	4,679	3,498	3,179
North Dakota	3,467	5,452	473	2,994	1,506	219	603	540
South Dakota	3,330	4,683	334	2,996	1,633	236	601	520
Nebraska	6,873	4,281	969	5,904	3,691	586	997	996
Kansas	11,208	4,443	2,036	9,172	6,070	1,144	1,376	1,765
<b>South Atlantic</b>	<b>236,700</b>	<b>5,253</b>	<b>55,765</b>	<b>180,935</b>	<b>112,864</b>	<b>39,671</b>	<b>26,338</b>	<b>50,016</b>
Delaware	2,685	3,896	367	2,318	1,572	219	425	417
Maryland	32,337	6,588	7,147	25,190	12,071	7,876	2,940	6,910
District of Columbia	19,998	33,974	2,704	17,294	2,355	4,199	1,951	10,059
Virginia	40,913	6,416	17,270	23,643	15,127	9,914	2,773	11,722
West Virginia	8,127	4,485	285	7,842	5,364	304	1,668	692
North Carolina	25,739	3,762	5,488	20,251	14,328	2,185	3,971	4,624
South Carolina	15,908	4,415	3,369	12,539	7,679	2,998	2,393	2,621
Georgia	28,295	4,191	7,949	20,346	13,499	4,447	4,028	5,686
Florida	62,698	4,649	11,186	51,512	40,869	7,530	6,187	7,286
<b>East South Central</b>	<b>71,774</b>	<b>4,622</b>	<b>12,192</b>	<b>59,582</b>	<b>37,346</b>	<b>12,075</b>	<b>11,597</b>	<b>9,302</b>
Kentucky	15,541	4,139	2,225	13,316	8,806	983	2,951	2,490
Tennessee	22,533	4,485	2,226	20,307	11,720	4,301	3,658	2,501
Alabama	20,351	4,921	4,124	16,227	10,436	3,716	2,795	2,953
Mississippi	13,349	5,106	3,617	9,732	6,383	3,076	2,193	1,358
<b>West South Central</b>	<b>112,710</b>	<b>4,091</b>	<b>21,848</b>	<b>90,862</b>	<b>59,488</b>	<b>16,042</b>	<b>17,819</b>	<b>15,243</b>
Arkansas	9,957	4,151	994	8,963	6,421	466	1,691	964
Louisiana	18,605	4,340	2,549	16,056	9,348	2,216	4,417	2,089
Oklahoma	14,292	4,449	2,709	11,583	7,871	1,178	2,066	2,544
Texas	69,856	3,957	15,596	54,260	35,848	12,183	9,645	9,646
<b>Mountain</b>	<b>67,491</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>13,205</b>	<b>54,286</b>	<b>30,497</b>	<b>14,458</b>	<b>9,282</b>	<b>10,675</b>
Montana	4,092	4,968	286	3,806	1,960	230	765	571
Idaho	4,721	4,424	364	4,357	2,194	1,092	694	560
Wyoming	2,100	4,505	242	1,858	933	173	593	338
Colorado	17,184	4,952	4,622	12,562	6,899	4,246	1,905	3,317
New Mexico	10,390	6,571	1,739	8,651	3,482	3,809	1,379	1,485
Arizona	16,513	4,309	3,502	13,011	9,135	2,535	2,235	2,202
Utah	7,114	3,924	1,610	5,504	3,015	1,345	1,042	1,476
Nevada	5,377	4,051	840	4,537	2,878	1,029	669	726
<b>Pacific</b>	<b>185,964</b>	<b>4,566</b>	<b>47,897</b>	<b>138,067</b>	<b>87,142</b>	<b>38,383</b>	<b>26,837</b>	<b>28,262</b>
Washington	24,025	4,678	5,436	18,589	11,738	4,016	3,374	3,992
Oregon	11,712	3,934	641	11,071	7,339	589	2,050	1,329
California	139,695	4,526	37,381	102,314	64,816	32,353	19,738	18,988
Hawaii	6,497	5,603	2,893	3,604	2,456	695	839	2,369
Undistributed	25,335	(NA)	17,282	8,053	400	24,443	475	15

NA = Not Available.

<sup>1</sup> Includes other programs not shown separately.<sup>2</sup> Based on Bureau of the Census resident population as of April 1, 1992.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Federal Expenditures by State for Fiscal Year, annual.