

ALASKA OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

By John Van Houten

Alaska's employment growth is anticipated to continue through 1988 but at a subdued pace compared to the past several years. With any growth in employment, growth in jobs does not occur equally in every occupation. Sales and service occupations will show the largest percentage growth from 1983 to 1988. Craft, operator, and labor occupations will gain the least. Sales clerks will have the greatest number of job openings resulting from industry growth plus replacement needs from death and retirement separations. Desk clerks and waiters/waitresses will have the highest employment growth rate.

These are among the findings from Research & Analysis Section's latest employment estimates and projections produced from its industry-occupations (I-O) matrix. The I-O matrix is based on Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) industry surveys which cover all of Alaska's nonagricultural and nonmilitary wage and salary employment. Information is provided for more than 200 specific occupations and includes 1983 base-year occupational employment estimates, 1984 estimates, 1988 projected employment, and average annual job openings resulting from growth and replacement needs from 1983-1988.

The occupations are divided into seven major categories, i.e., managers and officers (1983 estimated employment, 20,100), professionals (29,900), technicians (9,800), service workers (32,400), maintenance and production workers (60,800), clerical workers (43,200), and salespersons (9,900). Occupations in the sales category are projected to show a 15.4% gain from 1983-88, followed by service workers at 12.0%, clerical workers 7.8%, managers and officers 7.7%, professionals 7.3%, technicians 4.5%, and maintenance and production workers 4.4%.

Complete results of the estimates and projections for Alaska statewide, and for Anchorage, and Fairbanks will soon be available in the publication *Alaska Occupational Employment*. Alaska statewide information is presented in Table I for a list of 39 specific occupations which have the highest number of job openings projected for growth and employment needs.* These occupations account for 52% of the grand total job openings for all occupations in the matrix. The 1983 employment estimate for each occupation is given along with the percent and numerical change projected between 1983-1988. The employment prospects statement gives a brief supply/demand and job outlook evaluation for each position listed.

The employment prospects statements have been taken from the Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS). Detailed employment outlook infor-

mation for the occupations listed here and more than 200 others can be found in the AKCIS Occupational Information file.

* The number of job openings considered here do not include turnover openings resulting when employees change jobs or occupations or temporarily quit working. Turnover openings for some occupations may exceed growth and replacement openings, however, there is no good measurement available for turnover. Growth and replacement openings are more indicative of net needs and provide good comparative values among occupations.

The Job Outlook in Brief

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Officers and Managers			
Managers—Restaurant or Bar	618	18.3	113
Managers—Store	1,842	17.2	317
Professionals			
Accountants & Auditors	1,843	6.0	111
Nurses—Professional	2,022	4.6	93

Employment Prospects

Shortage of qualified applicants, particularly for full-service restaurants. Many employers promote from within, some exclusively. The number of establishments is growing in Alaska, so prospects are very good for experienced applicants, particularly those willing to enter at a lower level.

Surplus of applicants. The number of sales and service personnel desiring these promotions make the situations very competitive. The outlook depends on the development of new goods and services, and management's interest in improved marketing techniques and sales organization.

Shortage of fully trained auditors and certified public accountants (CPA). The outlook depends mainly on the health of Alaska's economy, greater use of accounting services by all size of firms and the public sector, complexity of tax laws, and government regulation of financial reporting. A steady demand is anticipated for accountants and auditors in Alaska.

Slight shortage of applicants. Outlook depends on extension of prepayment programs, and increased interest in preventive medicine and rehabilitation of the handicapped. In Alaska, the supply is unevenly distributed by geographic area and specialty, causing shortages in some less populated areas of the state.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Teachers—College	1,675	11.9	200
Teachers—Elementary	3,862	11.9	461
Teachers—Secondary	3,224	11.9	385
Service Workers			
Bartenders	1,481	17.7	262
Child Care Workers	814	10.7	87
Cooks—Institutional	971	9.7	94
Cooks—Restaurant	1,330	17.4	232
Cooks—Short Order/ Speciality Fast Food	907	18.1	164
Food Preparation & Service Workers—Fast Food	2,495	18.1	452

Employment Prospects

Extreme surplus of applicants. Outlook depends on new training and research programs, and on financial support of post-secondary institutions. Currently, there is a surplus of applicants in most disciplines at both state and national levels, resulting in extremely keen competition for jobs.

Supply varies with location and speciality. Most openings are in rural school districts where turnover is high. In urban areas, there is a surplus in the less-specialized areas of teaching.

Supply varies with location and speciality. Most openings are in rural school districts where turnover is high. In urban areas, there is a surplus in the less specialized areas of teaching.

Slight surplus of applicants. Openings are created by those who leave the occupation. The turnover rate is moderately high. Demand for bartenders increases in the summer creating some seasonal opportunities

Balance to slight surplus of applicants. However, turnover is high, resulting in a large number of openings. The outlook depends on the demand for child care and on public and private willingness to fund child care. Moderate growth is expected.

Balance of applicants. Outlook depends on turnover due to replacement of those leaving the occupation. Though the food service industry is growing as a whole, little or no growth is expected in institutional setting.

Balance to slight shortage of applicants. Highly skilled cooks and chefs can usually find work. While the food service industry is growing, most new establishments are fast food, which do not create openings for cooks and chefs.

Balance of applicants. The outlook depends on the replacement of those who leave the occupation. Turnover is relatively high. Opportunities usually exist for experienced persons, while there is generally a surplus of applicants for entry-level positions.

Surplus of applicants. While turnover is high, there are still many more applicants than openings, probably due to the fact that most positions are entry level and require little or no training and experience.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Guards & Doorkeepers	1,048	9.8	103
Janitors/Porters/Cleaners	4,552	10.3	468
Kitchen Helpers	1,798	15.8	284
Maids	1,445	15.9	229
Nurses Aides/Orderlies	1,548	7.8	120
Waiters Waitresses	3,545	18.3	648
Craft Persons/Operators/ Laborers			
Automotive Mechanic	1,612	9.1	146

Employment Prospects

Slight shortage of qualified applicants for some positions. Near balance overall. The outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation and the use of security services by public and private enterprises and agencies. Competition is keen for higher paying jobs. Turnover is relatively high. Part-time work is available.

Balance of applicants. Competition is keen for the better paying positions. Job turnover is high, especially in the lower pay ranges but there are usually applicants for these openings as well. Some part-time work is available for students.

Balance to slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on replacing those who leave the occupation. High job turnover will create most openings. Demand is higher in more populous areas.

Slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on the replacement of those who leave the occupation, the level of commercial and tourist activity, and the number of motels, hotels, and health facilities. High turnover creates a steady replacement demand. Demand increases during the summer season, causing shortages in some areas.

Balance of applicants. Outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation and on the number of hospitals and convalescent and nursing homes. Because of expansion of medical services, this occupation is expected to grow at a faster than average rate. Because turnover is high, opportunities are generally available.

Balance of applicants. Job turnover is high. Competition for the higher paying, more prestigious positions may be keen. Prospects are fairly good for beginners who convey a pleasant manner, neat appearance, and the willingness to work the less-popular shifts. Demand increases during the summer months, providing some seasonal opportunities.

Slight shortage of fully qualified workers. The outlook depends on general economic conditions in Alaska, the cost and supply of gasoline, and the willingness of employers to provide on-the-job training. Some employers report a surplus of applicants with some training but no practical experience. The demand is expected to increase for auto mechanics.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Baggers	701	18.1	127
Cannery Workers	5,225	2.7	142
Carpenters	2,444	-3.6	-89
Delivery & Route Workers	1,002	14.2	142
Maintenance Repairers— General Utility	2,741	8.3	227
Stock Clerks—Sales Floor	1,330	17.3	230
Clerical Workers			
Accounting Clerks	2,255	6.5	147
Bookkeepers—Hand	2,106	9.2	194

Employment Prospects

Surplus of applicants. The outlook depends primarily on the expansion of larger grocery stores that use grocery baggers services, and on replacement of those who leave the occupation. Competition is keen, especially for part-time jobs.

Slight shortage of applicants. The outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation, the size of the catch, and technological changes in canning or freezing methods. Moderate employment growth is anticipated. Employment is usually high in the summer.

Surplus of qualified applicants. The outlook depends on the level of building construction, seasonality, replacement of those who leave the occupation, and general economic conditions around the state. Prospects are best for those with all-around training. The change in employment for carpenters shows negative numbers, resulting from a projected decline in construction. However, because of job separations the occupation ranks high in job openings.

Surplus of qualified applicants. Entry level skills require little training and makes for an abundance of applicants and competition for job openings.

Moderate surplus of applicants. Openings will arise from worker retirement, moderate job turnover, and creation of new jobs due to expansion of the Alaskan economy.

Surplus of applicants particularly for entry level positions. However, due to high turnover at this level, opportunities will arise. The outlook depends on the expansion of trade, the general economic stability, and the rate of automation of these tasks.

Moderate surplus of applicants. Most positions are entry level and openings are created as workers advance to other positions or leave the occupation. Turnover is high, though competition is often keen for entry level positions.

Balance of skilled applicants. The outlook depends mainly on general business in Alaska and the replacement of those who leave the occupation. There is a shortage of applicants with bookkeeping and secretarial skills. Many employers require both. Remote areas offer many part-time opportunities.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Cashiers	2,712	16.2	444
Clerical Supervisors	1,256	6.3	79
Desk Clerk	463	18.6	86
General Clerks—Office	5,556	6.6	367
Receptionists	1,374	8.3	114
Secretaries	5,341	7.2	385
Stock Clerks—Stockroom Warehouse	1,882	11.4	215
Teacher Aides	1,631	11.8	193

Employment Prospects

Surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on expansion of business activities, replacement of those who leave the occupation, and technological advances in computerized pricing and in change-making equipment. Turnover is relatively high, but competition is still keen for these primarily entry level positions.

Balance to slight surplus of applicants. These positions are often filled by promotion from within the firm, and few openings are available to entry level applicants.

Slight surplus of inexperienced applicants. Demand is good in Alaska, particularly for people with training and/or experience. Demand is expected to increase as hotels and motels are built or expanded, though use of computerized reservations systems by some national chains will limit this somewhat.

Balance to slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends mainly on the economy of Alaska and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation. The demand for office clerks in Alaska is good. These are typically entry level positions which experience high turnover as workers move on to other positions.

Surplus of applicants. Turnover and promotions will create some openings. Most employers prefer applicants with clerical skills in addition to phone answering and greeting abilities.

Balance to slight surplus of applicants. The outlook depends mainly on a healthy state economy and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation. Prospects are better for secretaries with word processing or specialized skills such as legal or medical work.

Surplus of applicants, particularly for entry level positions. However, due to high turnover at this level, opportunities will arise. The outlook depends on the expansion of trade, the general economic stability, and the rate of automation of these tasks.

Large surplus of applicants. Competition is high enough in some areas that certified teachers are taking these positions. Outlook depends on replacement of those who leave the occupation, size of student population, the role of aides within the school settings, and upon financial backing from individual school districts.

Occupation	Estimated Employment 1983	Percent Change in Employment 1983-1988	Numerical Change in Employment 1983-1988
Tellers	1,023	9.5	97
Typists	3,298	3.6	120
Salespersons			
Sales Clerks	5,160	16.1	833

Employment Prospects

Surplus of applicants for entry-level positions. The outlook depends on expansion of business and banking activities, replacement of those leaving the occupation, and on technological advances in banking equipment.

Balance of applicants. The outlook depends mainly on the economy of Alaska and the need to replace workers who leave the occupation. Clerk Typist is typically an entry level position in most offices and openings are created as workers move on to other positions. Turnover is high. Moderate growth is anticipated.

Surplus of applicants. The outlook depends on general business conditions, expansion of retail sales facilities, the degree to which computerized checkout systems are utilized, and replacement of those who leave the occupation. Turnover is high but the number of applicants will continue to exceed the number of jobs.
