

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

By Su Hendrix

INTRODUCTION

In February, 68% of estimated unemployment in Alaska was covered by state unemployment insurance (UI). Those unemployed persons excluded from coverage were new entrants and reentrants to the labor force who tend to be students and homemakers, respectively. Also excluded were people who have exhausted benefits without having returned to work and people who never filed for benefits. Unemployed persons covered by UI are considered experienced workers. During February 58,209 payments, totalling \$8,129,995, were made to Alaska's in-state UI claimants.

UI claimant data is a potential source of labor supply information. While it does not provide a comprehensive view of all unemployed people, characteristics do indicate a pool of available and experienced workers not currently employed.

ABOUT THE DATA

Once every month, a survey of UI claimants is conducted to obtain certain characteristics data. A 100% sample of UI claimants filing for benefits during a key week is drawn from the Automated Benefits System. In the mid-month of each quarter, cross-tabulated tables of select UI claimant characteristics are run.

EDITOR'S NOTE: UI claimant characteristics that appear throughout this issue are available for each of Alaska's UI offices upon request.

The coding of occupations is based on the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT). In all tables except Table 3, a 2-digit code was used; Table 3 was based on a 3-digit code to provide a greater level of detail. The total number of claimants on each table may vary due to incomplete coding characteristics.

Industry codes are based upon the industry in which the claimant earned wages used to determine the UI benefit amount. In most cases this reflects the last industry in which the claimant was employed. Nearly three-quarters of all Alaska workers have earnings in only one industry. For comparison to February data see cross-tabulated characteristics for August 1981 that were published in Alaska Annual Planning Information 1982 (API).

CLAIMANTS BY INDUSTRY

In February the distribution of claimants by industry reflected that the highest concentration of experienced unemployed was in construction with 26% of all claimants. Services, manufacturing, trade and mining followed with 19%, 14%, 12% and 10%, respectively. At the end of the scale were public administration, finance, and agriculture.

UNEMPLOYED STRUCTURAL WORKERS

In February, 38% (5,277) of all claimants living in Alaska stated that structural work was their primary occupation (See Tables 1 and 2). This is not surprising since construction activity was at its seasonal low. Nearly one-half of these 5,277 claimants

Table 1
Alaska UI Claimants
By Industry and Occupation
February 1982

	Total	Ag.	Mining	Const.	Mfg.	Trans.	Trade	Finance	Services	Pub. Ad.	Unknown
TOTAL	14019	104	1347	3618	2026	1023	1668	383	2652	994	208
Officers and Managers	1521	4	139	106	75	155	136	85	572	242	24
Clerical and Sales	1809	2	128	100	118	138	464	189	486	180	24
Services	1567	9	102	94	119	64	475	29	551	97	27
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry	463	66	22	29	208	22	16	5	48	47	10
Processing	835	10	28	19	656	15	29	12	38	27	3
Machine Trade	616	0	86	138	109	65	87	2	101	19	9
Benchwork	70	0	9	14	10	1	13	1	20	1	1
Structural Work	5277	14	826	2603	437	239	283	79	622	313	P
Misc.	1861	9	209	513	291	324	185	21	214	68	

Table 2
Alaska UI Claimants
By Occupation Within Industry Percent Distribution
February 1982

	Total	Ag.	Mining	Const.	Mfg.	Trans.	Trade	Finance	Services	Pub. Ad.	Unknown
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Officers and Managers	10.8	3.8	10.3	2.9	3.8	15.1	8.1	16.9	21.5	24.3	11.8
Clerical and Sales	12.8	1.9	9.5	2.7	5.8	13.4	27.8	44.1	18.3	15.1	11.6
Services	11.1	8.6	7.5	2.5	5.8	6.2	28.4	7.5	20.7	9.7	13.1
Agricultural, Fishery, Forestry	3.3	53.8	1.6	0.8	10.2	2.1	0.9	1.3	1.8	4.7	4.8
Processing	5.9	8.6	1.9	0.5	32.3	1.4	1.7	3.1	1.4	2.7	1.4
Machine Trade	4.3	0.0	6.3	3.8	5.3	6.3	5.2	0.5	3.6	1.9	4.3
Bench Work	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.4
Structural Work	37.6	13.4	46.4	71.9	21.5	23.3	15.7	20.6	23.4	31.4	39.3
Misc.	13.2	8.6	15.5	14.1	14.3	31.6	11.0	5.4	8.0	6.8	13.1

had worked in the construction industry. Both mining and services had nearly 12% of those claimants whose primary occupation was structural work. The remaining 25% of unemployed structural workers were distributed over the other industries (See graph).

A more detailed occupational analysis of unemployed structural workers indicated nearly two-thirds were carpenters, excavators, graders and miscellaneous construction workers. Other unemployed structural workers included welders,

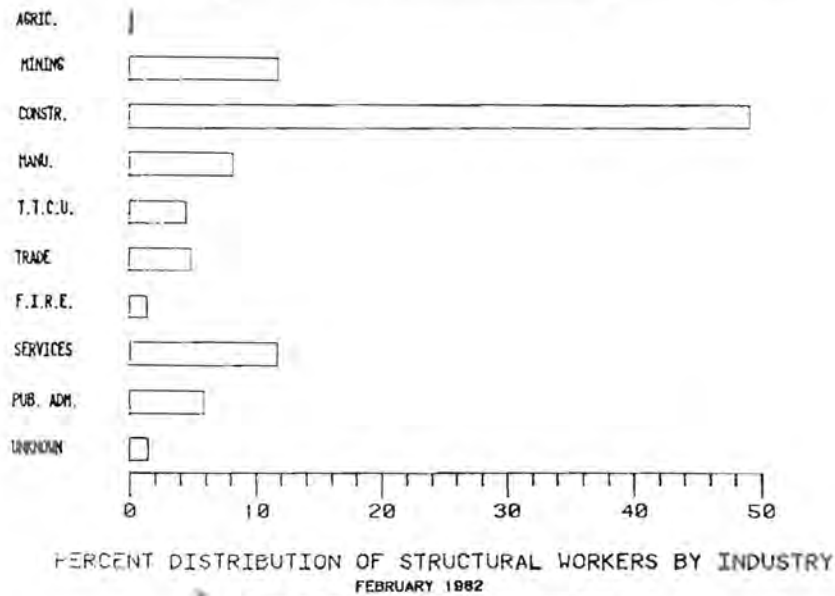


Table 3
Alaska UI Claimants
By Industry for Select Occupations^{1/}
February 1982
Total Claimants 13,806

	Total	Agriculture
Professional/Technical		
Surveying/Cartographic Occupations (018)	149	0
Administrative Specializations, N.E.C.* (169)	108	0
Clerical/Sales		
Stenography, Typing, Filing, & Related, N.E.C.* (209)	190	0
Accounting and Statistical Clerks (218)	164	0
Secretaries (201)	156	1
Sales Clerks (290)	157	0
Bookkeepers & Bookkeeping Mch. Operators (210)	154	1
Cashiers and Tellers (211)	149	0
Shipping, Receiving, Stock & Related (222)	101	0
Services		
Chefs & Cooks, Hotels & Restaurants(313)	313	0
Walters/Waitresses & Related (311)	208	0
Bartenders (312)	153	1
Kitchen Workers, N.E.C.* (318)	129	1
Agriculture, Fishery, Forestry		
Logging and Related (454)	204	4
Net, Seine, and Trap Fishers (441)	109	39
Processing Occupations		
Processors of Food, Tobacco, & Related Products, N.E.C.* (529)	480	2
Heating, Rendering, Melting, Drying, Cooling, Freezing, and Related (523)	265	8
Machine Trade Occupations		
Motorized Vehicles and Engineering Equipment Mechanics and Repairers (620)	279	0
Structural Work		
Miscellaneous Construction, N.E.C.* (869)	1904	9
Carpenters and Related (860)	854	0
Excavating, Grading, Paving & Related, N.E.C.* (859)	561	3
Excavating, Grading and Related (850)	483	1
Assemblers, Installers and Repairers of Lighting Equipment and Building Wiring, N.E.C.*(824)	216	0
Plumbers, Gasfitters, Steamfitters & Related (862)	188	0
Welders, Cutters and Related, N.E.C.* (819)	179	1
Miscellaneous		
Truck Drivers, Heavy (905)	356	1
Moving & Storing Materials & Products, N.E.C.* (922)	212	2
Passenger Transportation, N.E.C.* (913)	199	1
Packaging & Materials Handling, N.E.C.* (929)	162	0
Motor Freight, N.E.C.* (909)	154	0
Hoisting and Conveying (921)	110	1
Water Transportation (911)	108	3

* Not Elsewhere Classified

^{1/} Claimants by occupation listed
occupations with at least 100 total cla. 1 is.

	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation	Trade	Finance	Services	Pub. Adm.	Unknown
9	23	3	3	2	0	82	19	8	
11	10	7	6	8	12	32	18	2	
23	13	12	18	37	12	53	18	4	
8	11	13	11	28	27	38	28	0	
12	4	9	7	12	10	89	32	2	
11	5	10	3	83	5	33	7	0	
5	14	16	7	41	23	34	12	1	
8	5	2	5	72	28	25	3	3	
11	9	6	10	34	2	22	3	4	
25	25	31	11	106	2	102	5	6	
7	9	12	3	118	0	52	8	1	
4	2	6	4	97	1	32	3	3	
6	11	6	9	35	2	54	2	3	
5	6	173	5	2	1	5	0	3	
5	9	18	12	4	1	13	5	3	
5	5	426	4	13	3	18	5	1	
5	7	206	9	7	8	15	19	1	
34	73	33	31	47	2	47	9	3	
262	769	180	89	120	42	249	150	34	
70	499	62	17	38	13	76	62	17	
77	311	44	31	12	3	53	21	6	
51	278	41	33	16	3	26	28	6	
25	124	6	15	9	0	25	8	4	
21	133	3	6	5	0	17	2	1	
36	66	28	5	9	0	25	7	2	
35	149	33	66	29	3	31	5	4	
22	33	33	32	50	1	28	6	5	
14	84	14	41	15	0	21	6	3	
6	19	33	40	24	3	25	9	3	
8	49	37	31	7	12	14	6	0	
13	24	48	3	4	0	10	5	2	
2	10	19	48	3	4	4	12	2	

rep lative sample of those three-digit Dictionary of Occupational Titles (D.O.T.)

plumbers, gas fitters or people who assemble, install, or repair lights and wires. The remaining 25% were distributed through other structural occupations.

RACE BY INDUSTRY

Table 4 and 5 present another characteristic of unemployment insurance claimants, their race. Race has been cross-tabulated with the claimants' major industry. Table 4 shows the percent distribution of each race over the different industries. The highest percentage of white (non hispanic) claimants worked in the construction industry (29%). Black (non hispanic), hispanic, and Alaska Native or Indian claimants were heavily concentrated in the service industry with 32%, 20%, and 24% respectively. A very large percent (70%) of the Asian/Pacific Islander claimants had worked in manufacturing.

Table 5 shows the racial distribution of claimants in a given industry. In all but one industry the largest percentage of claimants were white (non hispanic). This is not unreasonable considering the racial distribution of Alaska's population and employment. The one industry which was not dominated by white claimants was agriculture. Indian and Alaska Native claimants represented 40% of the claimants who had worked other structural occupations.

Table 4
Alaska UI Claimants
Race By Industry
Percent Distribution
February 1988

	Total	Ag.	Mining	Const.	Mfg.	Trans.	Trade	Finance	Services	Pub. Ad.	Unknown
RACE											
White (Non Hispanic)	100.0	0.4	10.6	29.0	11.5	7.8	13.2	2.1	17.5	6.1	1.3
Black (Non Hispanic)	100.0	0.0	12.9	16.3	5.9	5.0	13.2	4.8	31.9	5.9	3.8
Hispanic	100.0	1.6	8.9	18.5	19.1	6.1	16.8	1.6	20.2	8.1	0.5
Indian and Ak. Native	100.0	1.8	4.0	19.6	16.4	7.1	7.3	4.8	24.2	12.2	2.0
Asian & Pacific Islander	100.0	0.0	3.3	4.2	69.6	1.6	6.9	0.4	10.1	1.0	0.4
Information not Available	100.0	3.3	16.6	16.4	17.0	5.2	5.6	4.4	21.4	8.5	1.1

Table 5
Alaska UI Claimants
Race Within Industry
Percent Distribution
February 1982

	Total	Ag.	Mining	Const.	Mfg.	Trans.	Trade	Finance	Services	Pub. Ad.	Unknown
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White (Non Hispanic)	72.5	39.4	80.7	81.9	57.9	77.6	80.9	58.4	67.1	63.2	66.0
Black (Non Hispanic)	2.5	0.0	3.4	1.6	1.0	1.7	2.8	4.4	4.2	2.1	6.3
Hispanic	1.2	2.8	1.1	0.9	1.6	1.0	1.7	0.7	1.3	1.1	0.4
Indian and Ak. Native	18.4	40.3	8.8	12.5	18.7	16.0	10.1	29.5	21.0	28.4	23.3
Asian & Pacific Islander	3.3	0.0	1.1	0.5	16.1	0.7	2.5	0.5	1.8	0.5	0.9
Information not Available	3.8	17.3	6.6	2.4	4.4	2.7	1.7	6.2	4.3	4.6	2.9