

## Per Capita Income for Census Areas and Incorporated Places

By Edward Eboch

**A**laska has been identified as one of the highest per capita income states in the United States. While Alaska ranked number one in per capita income in 1985 in the U.S. (Table 1), it will probably lose that distinction in 1986, falling behind the District of Columbia and Connecticut. With the decline in the price of oil, Alaska, like other oil producing states, is experiencing economic hard times. Layoffs in the private and public sector have resulted in greater competition for jobs and lower wages. Tough times mean less profit for local businessmen and investors. As a result per capita income is expected to decline in 1986 as the population adjusts to these new conditions.

In 1985 Alaska's per capita income was estimated to be \$18,187, 31% above the national average but less than 1% above the next two states (Table 2). One must be careful, however, in making comparisons between the statewide per capita income for Alaska and per capita income of other states. Per capita income varies widely by community in Alaska and may vary from year to year in communities heavily dependent on fishing as a source of income. In addition, differences in living costs affect the buying power of this income.

Table 3 compares per capita income for incorporated places within Alaska for 1983. The high per capita incomes of the Anchorage and Juneau boroughs, which have 50% of the population, and a few smaller areas pull up the state's average per capita income. Many communities in Alaska do not share this wealth. Per capita income within Alaska varies from the lows of Chuathbaluk (\$1,944), Diomedes (\$1,876), Russian Mission (\$1,862), and Ruby (\$1,892) to the highs of Sand Point (\$21,162) and Anderson (\$19,168).

Caution should be exercised when attempting to use personal income data as a standard of living between areas of the state. Non-cash sources of goods and services, which are important in many rural areas of the state, are not reflected by personal income data. Many census divisions with low per capita income levels also have very high expenditure levels for energy, food, and other goods and services which further complicate interregional comparisons of income.

The State of Alaska's Geographic Differential Study shows the extent that costs differ between geographical areas of Alaska (Table 4). After adjustments are made for living costs and taxes, Alaska's nominally high income buys no more than income in other states. In many of the smaller communities in the state, per capita income is well be-

low poverty income guidelines. Even with the subsistence contributions in rural areas, the per capita income levels are unable to support a life style comparable to what is considered acceptable by most residents of the U.S.

**Table 1**  
**Total and Per Capita Income**  
**Alaska and United States**  
**1970 - 1984**

	<b>Alaska Total (Million)</b>	<b>U.S. Total (Million)</b>	<b>Alaska Per Capita</b>	<b>U.S. Per Capita</b>
1970	\$1,517	\$ 825,528	\$ 4,986	\$ 4,051
1971	1,671	888,453	5,279	4,296
1972	1,832	976,071	5,610	4,664
1973	2,160	1,095,076	6,482	5,181
1974	2,632	1,204,070	7,635	5,644
1975	3,755	1,307,539	10,121	6,069
1976	4,521	1,446,099	11,499	6,647
1977	4,674	1,601,844	11,764	7,289
1978	4,805	1,806,207	11,947	8,133
1979	5,017	2,026,684	12,435	9,025
1980	5,586	2,252,021	13,797	9,910
1981	6,421	2,512,327	15,434	10,940
1982	7,702	2,660,940	17,312	11,470
1983	8,690	2,833,184	18,018	12,093
1984	9,080	3,101,402	17,996	13,114
1985	9,476	3,310,545	18,187	13,867

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

**Table 2**  
**Per Capita Income**  
**Ranked by State 1/**  
**1985**

<b>Rank</b>			<b>Rank</b>		
1	Alaska	\$18,187	27	Wyoming	\$13,223
2	Dist. of Columbia	18,168	28	Wisconsin	13,154
3	Connecticut	18,089	29	Arizona	12,795
4	New Jersey	17,211	30	Oregon	12,622
5	Massachusetts	16,380	31	Iowa	12,594
6	California	16,065	32	Georgia	12,543
7	New York	16,090	33	Indiana	12,446
8	Maryland	15,864	34	Oklahoma	12,232
9	New Hampshire	14,964	35	Vermont	12,117
10	Colorado	14,812	36	North Dakota	12,052
11	Illinois	14,738	37	Maine	11,887
12	Virginia	14,542	38	North Carolina	11,617
13	Nevada	14,488	39	Louisiana	11,274
14	Delaware	14,272	40	Tennessee	11,243
15	Minnesota	14,087	41	South Dakota	11,161
16	Rhode Island	13,906	42	Idaho	11,120
17	Washington	13,876	43	Montana	10,974
18	Hawaii	13,814	44	New Mexico	10,914
19	Kansas	13,775	45	Kentucky	10,824
20	Florida	13,742	46	Alabama	10,673
21	Michigan	13,608	47	South Carolina	10,586
22	Texas	13,483	48	Utah	10,493
23	Pennsylvania	13,437	49	Arkansas	10,476
24	Nebraska	13,281	50	West Virginia	10,193
25	Missouri	13,244	51	Mississippi	9,187
26	Ohio	13,226			

1/ Includes District of Columbia

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

**Table 3**  
**1984 Population and 1983 Per Capita Income**  
**Estimates for Census Areas and Incorporated Places**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Estimated Per Capita Money Income (dollars)</b>
<b>State of Alaska</b>	508,062	12,900
<b>Aleutian Islands</b>		
<b>Census Area</b>	7,215	13,663
Akutan	180	8,391
Cold Bay	190	18,438
King Cove	521	8,439
St. George	172	7,104
St. Paul	634	7,361
Sand Point	870	21,162
Unalaska	2,144	13,709
<b>Anchorage Borough</b>	226,663	14,561
Anchorage	226,663	14,561
<b>Bethel Census Area</b>	12,110	6,609
Akiak	272	3,526
Aniak	476	9,528
Atnautluak	243	3,920
Bethel	3,927	10,660
Chefornak	268	5,036
Chauthbaluk	141	1,944
Eek	257	4,876
Goodnews Bay	230	6,599
Kasigluk	414	4,702
Kweihluk	519	3,615
Lower Kalskag	270	2,459
Mekoryuk	182	5,172
Napakiak	319	4,931
Napaskiak	289	5,173
Newtok (pt.)	187	2,514
Nightmute	152	4,409
Nunapitchuk	401	3,160
Platinum	60	6,609
Quinhagak	424	4,062
Toksook Bay	365	4,122

**Table 3 (Continued)**  
**1984 Population and 1983 Per Capita Income**  
**Estimates for Census Areas and Incorporated Places**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Estimated Per Capita Money Income (dollars)</b>
Tuluksak	283	2,080
Tununak	333	4,359
Upper Kalskag	111	4,213
<b>Bristol Bay Borough</b>	1,134	17,917
<b>Dillingham Census Area</b>	4,929	8,287
Aleknagik	301	10,348
Chignik	107	12,040
Clark's Point	74	8,287
Dillingham	1,984	11,144
Ekwok	96	8,287
Manokatak	282	6,181
Newhalen	250	8,287
New Stuyahok *	160	4,687
Nondalton	231	5,418
Port Heiden	116	8,287
Togiak	554	4,422
<b>Fairbanks North Star Borough</b>	62,278	12,360
Fairbanks	26,614	12,392
North Pole	1,005	11,698
<b>Haines Borough</b>	1,938	9,536
Haines	1,154	9,087
<b>Juneau Borough</b>	23,776	16,027
Juneau	23,776	16,027
<b>Kenai Peninsula Borough</b>	39,544	11,094
Homer	3,384	11,943
Kachemak	328	16,101
Kenai	6,105	13,390

**Table 3 (Continued)**  
**1984 Population and 1983 Per Capita Income**  
**Estimates for Census Areas and Incorporated Places**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Estimated Per Capita Money Income (dollars)</b>
Seldovia	678	8,223
Seward	2,064	10,958
Soldotna	3,550	11,244
<b>Ketchikan Gateway</b>		
<b>Borough</b>	12,976	13,273
Ketchikan	7,781	13,164
Saxman	288	8,215
<b>Kobuk Census Area</b>		
	5,588	7,560
Ambler	301	7,206
Buckland	249	3,484
Deering	126	4,433
Kiana	402	6,666
Kivalina	276	3,144
Kobuk	92	7,560
Kotzebue	2,412	11,170
Noorvik	517	5,273
Selawik	635	3,466
Shungnak	238	5,894
<b>Kodiak Island</b>		
<b>Borough</b>	15,780	11,710
Akhiok	103	2,420
Kodiak	7,596	13,445
Larsen Bay	214	8,716
Old Harbor	390	3,781
Ouzinkie city	253	10,701
Port Lions	376	7,723
<b>Matanuska-Susitna</b>		
<b>Borough</b>	29,612	10,495
Houston	668	8,027
Palmer	2,772	9,785
Wasilla	4,385	10,385

**Table 3 (Continued)**  
**1984 Population and 1983 Per Capita Income**  
**Estimates for Census Areas and Incorporated Places**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Estimated Per Capita Money Income (dollars)</b>
<b>Nome Census Area</b>	7,523	7,531
Brevig Mission	128	3,093
Diomede	153	1,876
Elim	248	4,442
Gambell	498	4,597
Golovin	122	7,531
Koyuk	211	5,492
Nome	2,904	11,180
St. Michael	279	3,915
Savoonga	542	3,498
Shaktolik	160	4,731
Shishmaref	453	4,851
Stebbins	283	3,097
Teller	270	4,241
Unalakleet	952	6,125
Wales Alaska	182	3,185
White Mountain	136	4,681
<b>North Slope Borough</b>	5,088	14,995
Anaktuvuk Pass	233	5,900
Atkasuk	214	10,257
Barrow	2,943	17,609
Kaktovik	207	12,237
Nuiqsut	305	10,014
Point Hope	582	8,685
Wainwright	507	12,478
<b>Prince of Wales- Outer Ketchikan Census Area</b>	4,832	9,575
Craig	1,065	9,071
Hydaburg	453	6,847
Kasaan	45	9,575
Klawock	532	9,070
Thorne Bay	392	14,314

**Table 3 (Continued)**  
**1984 Population and 1983 Per Capita Income**  
**Estimates for Census Areas and Incorporated Places**

Area	Population	Estimated Per Capita Money Income (dollars)
<b>Sitka Borough</b>	7,442	13,323
Sitka	7,442	13,323
<b>Skagway-Yakutat- Angoon Census Area</b>	3,956	8,365
Angoon	648	4,789
Hoonah	938	6,341
Pelican	223	10,302
Skagway	816	11,506
Tenakee Springs	156	6,213
Yakutat	453	8,744
<b>Southeast Fairbanks Census Area</b>	6,291	8,259
Delta Junction	170	8,826
<b>Valdez-Cordova Census Area</b>	8,558	13,450
Cordova	2,211	14,740
Valdez	3,570	13,737
Whittier	268	11,979
<b>Wade Hampton Census Area</b>	5,518	4,159
Alakanuk	563	3,010
Chevak	532	3,904
Emmonak	570	3,327
Fortuna Ledge	280	3,939
Hooper Bay	678	4,179
Kotlik	412	4,254
Mountain Village	693	5,452
Newtok City (pt.)	-	-
Pilot Station	428	2,409
Russian Mission	170	1,862
St. Mary's	656	6,202
Scammon Bay	296	4,273
Sheldon Point	135	2,008



**Table 3 (Continued)**  
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Area	Population	Estimated Per Capita Money Income (dollars)
<b>Wrangell-Petersburg</b>		
<b>Census Area</b>	6,357	12,057
Kake	680	7,998
Kupreanof	53	12,057
Petersburg	2,967	13,281
Port Alexander	89	12,057
Wrangell	2,315	11,511
<b>Yukon-Koyukuk</b>		
<b>Census Area</b>	8,953	9,478
Allakaket	179	4,132
Anderson	524	19,618
Anvik	123	3,849
Fort Yukon	645	8,457
Galena	894	13,049
Grayling	244	3,321
Holy Cross	270	3,226
Hughes	97	9,478
Huslia	283	3,635
Kaltag	260	3,427
Koyukuk	100	9,478
McGrath	499	12,273
Nenana	544	9,603
Nilolai	109	9,478
Nulato	392	4,003
Ruby	310	1,892
Shageluk	148	3,812
Tenana	416	6,902
<b>Multi-County Places:</b>		
Newtok (pt.)	187	2,514

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-26, No. 84-W-SC, West: 1984 Population and 1983 Per Capita Income Estimates for Counties and Incorporated Places, U.S. Government Printing office, Washington D.C. 1986.

**Table 4**  
**Alaska Geographic Differential Study, 1985**

<b>District 1/</b>	<b>Cost of Living Differential</b>
Seattle	.86
Palmer/Wasilla	.94
Petersburg/Wrangell	.98
Anchorage (base)	1.00
Seward	1.00
Sitka	1.01
Kenai/Cook Inlet	1.01
Ketchikan	1.02
Juneau	1.03
Fairbanks/Fort Yukon	1.03
Icy Strait/Lynn Canal	1.05
Kodiak	1.06
Cordova/Valdez	1.11
Aleutian Islands	1.26
Wade Hampton	1.26
Bristol Bay	1.29
Yukon/Kuskokwim	1.29
Nome	1.33
Bethel	1.39
Barrow/Kotzebue	1.45

1/ The study was conducted using the districts currently in place for geographic differentials, which are the 1961 election districts.

Source: Alaska Geographic Differential Study, State of Alaska, Department of Administration, Division of Labor Relations, April 1985.