

A unique location

The Haines Borough is at the northern end of Alaska's Panhandle nestled between the Chilkoot and Chilkat Rivers. The borough's boundaries extend from the tip of the Chilkat Peninsula to the border that separates the United States and Canada – it's a 40 mile drive from Haines to the border. The borough encompasses nearly 2,620 square miles of glaciers, forested valleys, snow-capped mountains, and numerous streams and rivers. Lynn Canal – North America's longest glacial fjord – begins at the town of Haines and extends 90 miles south.

Historic Haines

The Tlingit Indians were the first people who called the Chilkat Valley home. The Ganaxtedih Ravens and the Deklawedih Eagles of Klukwan controlled a prosperous trade route between the Tlingit and Athabascan Indians.¹ The trade

¹ According to the Sheldon Museum and Cultural Center website: www.sheldonmuseum.org/daltontrail.htm

route, which led over the Chilkat Pass, was called the "grease trail" and named after the trade in candlefish oil. It would later become known by prospectors as the Dalton Trail.

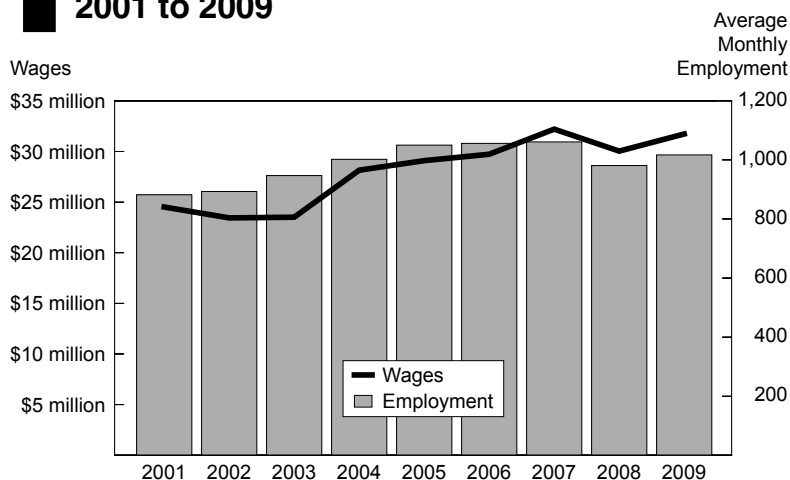
The gold rushes of the 1890s lured thousands of prospectors up the Inside Passage, through Lynn Canal, and over the mountain passes to mining camps in the Yukon. By the 1890s, Haines had become an important supply depot for prospectors. A local businessman named Jack Dalton realized the importance of the Tlingit's trade route and developed it into a toll road. In 1899, with permission of the U.S. government, Dalton began charging fees for prospectors and suppliers to travel the road from Haines to waterways connecting to the Yukon River. From there, prospectors would travel downriver by raft to Dawson City. The Dalton Trail was just one of several routes used by prospectors during the Klondike gold rush.

Alaska's strategic importance during World War II prompted the construction of the ALCAN (Alaskan and Canadian) Highway in 1942. The new highway connected interior-Alaska with the lower 48 states and Canada. The Haines Highway was completed in 1943. It followed the same route as the Dalton Trail and linked Haines' deep-water ports with the ALCAN Highway. In 1948, two Haines residents established a ferry service to Skagway and Tee Harbor (18 miles north of Juneau). The ferry service was purchased by the Territory of Alaska in 1951 and would later become the Alaska Marine Highway System.

Haines is a popular travel destination

Today, Haines continues to attract Alaska residents and tourists. Haines offers year-round road access to Canada and Anchorage via the high-

1 Employment and Wages in Haines 2001 to 2009



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

2 Population Estimates Haines Borough, 2009

Age	Haines Borough					Alaska				
	Total	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female	Total	Male	Percent Male	Female	Percent Female
0-4	110	54	49.1	56	50.9	57,899	30,146	52.1	27,753	47.9
5-9	117	59	50.4	58	49.6	55,674	29,014	52.1	26,660	47.9
10-14	141	77	54.6	64	45.4	52,991	26,986	50.9	26,005	49.1
15-19	137	71	51.8	66	48.2	54,941	28,124	51.2	26,817	48.8
20-24	78	34	43.6	44	56.4	46,487	23,158	49.8	23,329	50.2
25-29	92	42	45.7	50	54.3	45,324	22,937	50.6	22,387	49.4
30-34	130	73	56.2	57	43.8	46,859	24,244	51.7	22,615	48.3
35-39	135	70	51.9	65	48.1	47,260	24,001	50.8	23,259	49.2
40-44	144	76	52.8	68	47.2	47,053	23,794	50.6	23,259	49.4
45-49	210	110	52.4	100	47.6	53,789	27,527	51.2	26,262	48.8
50-54	234	123	52.6	111	47.4	53,133	27,086	51.0	26,047	49.0
55-59	228	118	51.8	110	48.2	45,804	23,732	51.8	22,072	48.2
60-64	205	114	55.6	91	44.4	32,837	17,198	52.4	15,639	47.6
65-69	116	58	50.0	58	50.0	20,556	10,641	51.8	9,915	48.2
70-74	71	37	52.1	34	47.9	12,525	6,250	49.9	6,275	50.1
75-79	65	26	40.0	39	60.0	8,423	3,923	46.6	4,500	53.4
80-84	37	21	56.8	16	43.2	5,746	2,465	42.9	3,281	57.1
85-90	29	11	37.9	18	62.1	3,280	1,358	41.4	1,922	58.6
90+	7	-	-	7	100.0	1,733	637	36.8	1,096	63.2
16+	1,889	966	51.1	923	48.9	514,804	261,532	50.8	253,272	49.2
18+	1,822	934	51.3	888	48.7	492,542	250,053	50.8	242,489	49.2
65+	325	153	47.1	172	52.9	52,263	25,274	48.4	26,989	51.6
Median	46.4	46.4		46.4		33.5	33.4		33.7	
Total	2,286	1,174	51.4	1,112	48.6	692,314	353,221	51.0	339,093	49.0

Note: No adjustments have been made here for Census Bureau corrections to the 2000 Census.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, Demographics Unit

way, and the Alaska Marine Highway connects Haines with the rest of Southeast Alaska. The Haines Borough Chamber of Commerce's annual events calendar reveals a host of activities that cater to in-state and out-of-state visitors.²

January features the Alcan 200, an annual snow machine race from the Canadian Border to Dezadeash Lake (in the Yukon Territory) and back. Top riders travel at speeds faster than 100 miles per hour along a 160 mile race course.

Those who prefer pedal power can attend the Kluane Chilkat International Bike Relay in June. This 148 mile bike race from Haines Junction to Haines is popular among Juneau and Whitehorse residents but also attracts riders from other places.³

The month of May offers the Great Alaska Craft

² See www.haineschamber.org for a complete list of events.

³ Whitehorse and Haines Junction are both located in the Yukon, which is one of Canada's territories

Beer and Homebrew Festival – a three-day event that draws beer lovers and home brewers from around Alaska to the Haines Fairgrounds. This beer festival is followed in July by the Southeast Alaska State Fair, a four day event that features live music, food, arts and crafts, farm animals, and amusement rides.

In November, the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival attracts visitors from around the globe. They come to observe an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 bald eagles that gather along the Chilkat River to feed on a late run of spawning salmon. It's the largest annual gathering of bald eagles in the world.

The people and the economy

Over the past ten years, the Haines Borough has maintained relatively steady employment. Total wage and salary employment grew modestly from 882 jobs in 2001 to a high of 1,061 in 2007. Employment declined slightly in 2008 and 2009 with subsequent declines in total wages as well. (See Exhibit 1.)

Haines is a small community with an estimated 2009 population of 2,286 people. The area has an older population compared to the rest of Alaska. Haines Borough had an estimated median age of 46.4 compared to the statewide median age of 33.5 years. In terms of the percentage of males and females, the borough trends similar to the state as a whole with 51.4 percent male and 48.6 percent female compared to 51 percent male and 49 percent female statewide. (See Exhibit 2.)

The top industries in Haines

Though relatively small, the Haines Borough has a diverse economy with a mix of industries.

Employment and Wages by Industry **3**

Haines Borough, 2009

Leisure and hospitality, local government, retail trade, and health care are the borough's dominant industries which provide more than 62 percent of the total wage and salary employment. Haines is a popular tourist destination, and the leisure and hospitality industry provides the largest number of jobs in the borough. Leisure and hospitality accounted for 20.7 percent of total wage and salary employment and 11.8 percent of total wages during 2009.⁴

The local government and retail trade sectors are tied at second in terms of the number of jobs provided. A majority of local government employees work for the Haines School District or city government; local government represented 14.7 percent of total wage and salary employment in 2009. Retail trade has likely seen some benefits from tourism growth. The borough's retail trade employment has gradually increased over the past several years. Retail trade provided 14.7 percent of total wage and salary employment in 2009. (See Exhibit 3.)

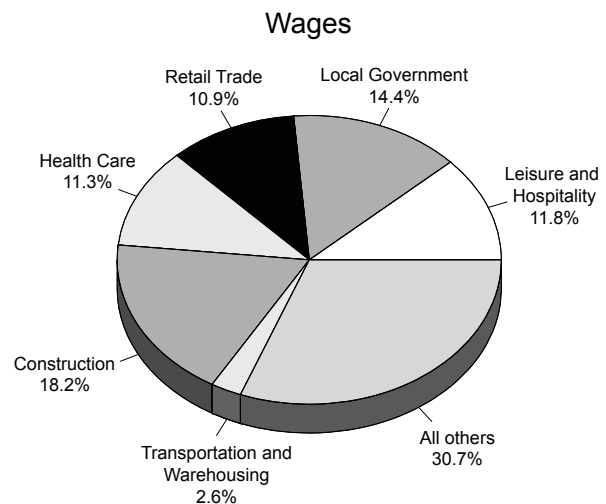
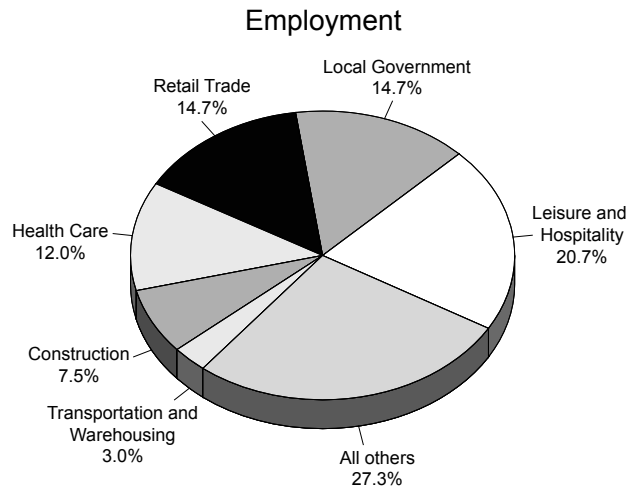
Health care is another important and growing industry in Haines. One possible reason for growth in this industry is the older population. As the population of the borough continues to age, demand for health care services is likely to increase, thus fueling growth in the industry.

Seafood processing provides significant employment mostly during July, August, and September. Commercial fishing is also an important contributor to the borough's economy. In 2009, over 80 residents with commercial permits made at least one landing, earning an estimated \$5.1 million with a total of over 6.1 million pounds landed.⁵

Construction provides a small segment of the borough's overall employment but accounts for a large percentage of total wages. The borough's construction industry accounted for 18.2 percent of total wages – more than any other

⁴ Employment and salary data are based on the number of jobs in the Haines Borough for which employers pay workers wages or salaries. Business owners, self-employed persons, fishermen, unpaid volunteers or family workers, and private household workers are not counted. There is no distinction made between full and part-time employment.

⁵ See this website for Haines fisheries data: www.cfec.state.ak.us/gpbycen/2009/100186.htm



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

industry. This is significant considering that construction represented only 7.5 percent of total employment in 2009.

Top employers in Haines

The largest single employer in the Haines Borough is Ocean Beauty Seafoods. (See Exhibit 4.) Although not the largest industry, seafood processing contributes a significant number of jobs. The tourism industry has more jobs than seafood, but they are distributed among several employers.

Haines School District and the borough government are the second and third largest employers respectively. Southeast Regional Health Consor-

4 Top 10 Employers Haines Borough, 2009

Rank	Company	Industry	Average Monthly Employment in 2009
1	Ocean Beauty Seafoods LLC	Seafood processing	50 to 99
2	Haines Borough School District	Local government	50 to 99
3	Haines Borough	Local government	50 to 99
4	Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	Health Care	50 to 99
5	Southeast Road Builders Inc.	Construction	50 to 99
6	State of Alaska	State government	20 to 49
7	AK Mountain Guides & Climbing	Amusement and Recreation	20 to 49
8	Chilkat Guides Ltd.	Amusement and Recreation	20 to 49
9	Cornerstone Home Health Inc.	Health Care	20 to 49
10	Alaska Business Growth Corporation	Supermarket and Other grocery stores	20 to 49

Note: These are ranges that a company's or organization's specific employment number falls into; the ranking is based on the specific employment number.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

tium is fourth largest and the major employer in health care, providing between 50 and 100 year-round jobs in 2009.

Tourism is the largest industry in the borough, supporting 20.7 percent of all employment during 2009. Just like seafood processing, most of the jobs in tourism are seasonal. Two local tour companies, Alaska Mountain Guides and Climbing, and Chilkat Tours are the seventh and eighth largest employers.

Haines is a crossroads town and visitor destination

Although it's a relatively small town, Haines has developed its economic niche with a variety of jobs and industries. Haines has always been a

crossroads that connects Southeast waterways with Interior Alaska and Canada. In the early days, Tlingit Indians controlled nearby trade routes leading inland. In the 1890s miners and prospectors stampeded through Haines during the gold rush. In recent times, Haines has transformed itself into a destination for Alaskans and visitors alike. Local companies offer whitewater rafting, kayaking, mountain climbing, extreme skiing, sport fishing, and other tours. Annual events like the Southeast Alaska State Fair, Great Alaska Craft Beer and Homebrew Festival, and the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival keep locals and tourists coming back year after year. With the Alaska Highway to the north, the Alaska Marine Highway to the south, and thousands of acres of wilderness in all directions, Haines is likely to remain an attractive destination for many years to come.