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The Economic Impact of the Alaskan Earthquake

An earthquake of great intensity struck the state of Alaska on March 27, 1964.

Although the impact of the earthquake and its aftermath on the Alaskan economy may not be known fully for many years, some of its possible economic implications are new readily discernible.

Nearly half of Alaska's 265,000 estimated present population were concentrated in the south-central area of the state which was devastated by the earthquake and its seismic waves. Approximately 100,000 people were concentrated in or around Anchorage, Alaska's largest city. Another 10,000 or so were living in or near Cordova, Kenai, Kodiak, Seward, Valdez and Whittier. All of these areas were grieviously damaged by the earthquake and subsequent tidal waves.

Many hundreds of individuals lost their homes and their businesses or their jobs and find themselves burdened by mortgages and debts. Without extensive government aid these people are faced with an insoluble problem.

The income of the state will be seriously affected by the cessation of business activity over a large area. The business firms which were destroyed cannot contribute tax revenue to the state. Individuals with reduced income or none at all, will contribute less in personal income taxes. Tax credits taken, based on disaster losses, will further reduce state tax revenue.

Extensive unemployment has developed in many areas instantaneously. For many people unemployment will continue for a considerable period of time. In the cities of Seward, Valdez and Kodiak and in certain other areas the tools necessary for economic activity have ceased to exist.

The cost of reconstructing the public and private enterprises and structures destroyed during the disaster, has been estimated to be from 400 million to 500 million dollars.

Alaska's Seaports

Many of Alaska's major seaport facilities were wiped out or their operations were seriously impaired. Since Alaska imports over 90 per cent of all of its required consumer and industrial products, swift action will be needed to prevent the development of serious logistic bottlenecks.

In 1962 a total of 1,196,047 short tons of freight were handled by the four south-central Alaskan ports of Valdez, Whittier, Seward and Anchorage. (See Table II). Fifty-six per cent of this freight was handled by the port of Seward, twenty-nine per cent by the port of Anchorage, eleven per cent by the port of Whittier, and four per cent by the port of Valdez.

Seward's port facilities and the port facilities at Valdez were completely wiped out by the earthquake and tidal waves. Whittier's facilities were damaged but are partially operational. The port will be fully repaired and completely operational by about the middle of July, according to the latest estimates. The port of Anchorage was damaged but is currently handling a substantial volume of freight.

Obviously the two remaining south-central ports, which in 1962 handled only forty per cent of the total 1.2 million tonnage, cannot be expected to handle 100 per cent of 1.2 million tons in 1964. Alternate methods of supply must be quickly expanded or serious shortages could develop.

The Alaskan Highway

The Alaskan Highway which was not damaged by the earthquake, provides the state with an important overland route to the lower forty eight states. Alaska has no similar rail connection. Some damage was sustained

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by airports throughout the state but all major air fields are fully operational. Thus, many necessary items can be trucked or air-lifted into Alaska when ocean transport cannot be employed. The affect of these changes on transportation costs and ultimately on prices, cannot be ascertained at present.

Alaska's Airports

Evidence that air transport in Alaska has a limited ability to supplement ocean transport however is clearly indicated by an examination of the Alaskan airport activity data shown in Table I. During 1962 only 29,111 tons of air freight and air express were handled through all Alaskan airports. Over ten times this much air freight would have to be handled in order to equal just fifty per cent of the freight handled through the port of Seward during the same period.

TABLE I

AIRPORT ACTIVITY IN ALASKA — 1962

	Departures	Passengers	Freight plus Express (Tons)	Total U.S. and Foreign Mail (Tons)
Anchorage	8,395	156,806	6,297	6,980
Fairbanks	11,189	70,219	3,120	1,896
Juneau	5,865	58,163	752	589
Ketchikan	6,182	32,279	292	212
State (Total)	139,936	560,630	29,111	21,816

The Alaska Railroad

The Alaska Railroad extends from the port of Seward on the Gulf of Alaska to the city of Anchorage on the Cook Inlet and continues on to the city of Fairbanks located deep in Alaska's interior. It is a single track railroad 471 miles long. It is owned by the United States Government and operated by the Department of the Interior.

The Alaska earthquake of March 27, 1964 severely damaged approximately 150 miles of the Alaska Railroad's track. The remaining 321 miles received only negligible damage. Most of the damage to the rail line was due to landslides that occurred on the stretch of track between Seward and Portage and on the section between Whittier and Anchorage. The 60 mile section from Whittier to Anchorage has been restored and is currently operational on a reduced capacity basis. The section of the Alaska Railroad between Seward and Portage was very heavily damaged. Substantial rebuilding will be necessary to make it operational and major segments may have to be relocated.

Railroad services between Anchorage and Fairbanks were re-established on April 6th. The highway is also open between these two cities.

The Department of the Interior estimates that it will cost 24 million dollars to completely repair all damage to the railroad and its facilities.

The Alaska Railroad lost its terminal facilities and docks at Seward, its southern year round ice free port terminus. The railroad maintained two docks with excellent modern equipment and two modern warehouses at Seward. These docks and warehouses valued at $4,000,000 were completely destroyed. Fifty freight cars were also completely destroyed by the earthquake and its aftermath and $2,000,000 worth of freight was lost.

The Alaska Railroads' transfer bridge (car slip) at the port of Whittier was partially destroyed but is currently being rebuilt. The railroad car slip is expected to be operational about the middle of July 1964 and at that time rail barges can once again be handled on a roll-on, roll-off basis.

Berthing facilities for two or three ships remain intact at Whittier, a large one hundred ton floating crane was towed from Beaver, Oregon to Whittier, Alaska and will be utilized to lift cars from barges to the Railroad's tracks.

The control center for the Alaska Railroad is in Anchorage. The center consists of passenger and freight terminals, marshalling yards, warehousing facilities and a repair shop. The earthquake caused relatively moderate damage to these facilities and they are all operational.

The Federal Reconstruction and Development Planning Commission For Alaska

On April 2, 1964, President Johnson declared a major disaster in those areas of Alaska adversely affected by the earthquake and established The Federal Reconstruction and Development Planning Commission for Alaska in his Executive Order 11150. The Commission consists of Chairman Clinton Anderson, the Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Labor; the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Agency; the Housing and Home Finance Administrator; the Administrator of the Small Business Administration; the Chairman of the Fed-

eral Power Commission, and the Director of the Office of Emergency Planning.

The Commission is charged with the responsibility of:

a) developing coordinated plans and recommending action for all Federal programs involving reconstruction and economic and resources development in Alaska;

b) preparing recommendations to the President and the Governor of Alaska on long and short range programs and projects to be carried out by Federal and State agencies;

The Commission may request information and assistance from all Federal agencies and will cooperate fully with the Alaskan agencies involved in reconstruction and development.

The Federal Disaster Act

Public Law 81-875 which established the President's disaster relief fund authorizes financial aid to the States to protect life and property and to repair essential public facilities when a major disaster is declared by the President. The President has recently declared major disasters in five Ohio Valley States as a result of severe flooding. In April, 1964 the State of Alaska was declared a disaster area by President Johnson.

Prior to Public Law 81-875 Congress authorized specific grants of money when a great disaster occurred. In 1947 in response to heavy hurricanes in the gulf coast area and the flooding of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, Congress authorized the loan or transfer of surplus Federal property to disaster areas. This in turn led to the Federal Disaster Act approved September 30, 1950, giving President Johnson his present authority to provide immediate assistance to Alaska through all departments of the Federal Government.

The President, by Executive order, has designated the Office of Emergency Planning to coordinate all Federal assistance under the terms of the Act.

The President's disaster and relief fund originally contained $50,000,000. As a result of recent disbursements in the alleviation of flood damage in five Ohio Valley States the fund dropped to $19,021,121 as of April 1, 1964. The Alaska earthquake disaster was of such huge proportions and of such urgent character that the amount left in the disaster fund was wholly inadequate. Accordingly another $50,000,000 was provided to meet the situation.

It should be noted that the $50,000,000 appropriation is not specifically for Alaskan relief, but is to replenish the Federal disaster fund from which Alaskan relief as well as other relief contributions may be drawn.

Damage in Alaska eligible for Public Law 81-875 assistance includes the following: debris clearance; protective health and sanitation measures; the emergency repair of roads, streets and bridges, water and sewer systems, public utilities and public buildings and equipment.

The Fisheries Industry

The total value of Alaska's fisheries products in 1962 was in excess of 130 million dollars. About 102 million dollars of this total (or seventy-eight per cent) was produced by the salmon component of the fisheries industry. (See Table III). During this same period over 18 million dollars worth of shellfish products, principally crab, were

TABLE II
FREIGHT TRAFFIC FOR FOUR ALASKAN PORTS
1950-1962
(Short Tons)

Year	Valdez		Whittier		Anchorage		Seward		
	Tons	Percent of Four Ports	Tons	Percent of Four Ports	Tons	Percent of Four Ports	Tons	Percent of Four Ports	Total Tons
1950	85,963	10	265,625	32	50,742	6	482,953	25	831,283
1951	125,583	11	297,421	27	110,756	10	572,470	52	1,106,230
1952	95,656	9	237,297	24	122,264	12	549,408	55	1,004,625
1953	70,918	8	131,758	14	137,192	15	587,201	63	927,069
1954	96,278	10	120,606	13	170,309	18	565,013	59	952,206
1955	94,615	10	139,439	15	170,195	18	524,796	57	929,045
1956	58,420	6	175,538	16	201,139	19	633,489	59	1,068,586
1957	62,627	7	100,588	12	170,006	20	529,834	61	863,055
1958	57,361	7	129,969	15	214,281	25	450,705	53	852,316
1959	42,470	4	118,831	13	221,387	24	556,124	59	938,812
1960	72,746	7	115,420	11	246,758	23	628,422	59	1,063,346
1961	54,895	5	119,212	11	267,679	25	631,209	59	1,072,995
1962	41,620	4	132,427	11	351,963	29	670,037	56	1,196,047

harvested and processed along with approximately 11 million dollars worth of halibut, herring and other fish.

The major impact of the earthquake and tidal wave on the salmon processing facilities fell on numerous small canneries and single owner operations. Some major canneries and cold storage plants tied to the salmon industry escaped destruction or severe damage. Salmon fishing in Alaska takes place primarily during the summer, and the main portion of the salmon fishing fleet was not in the area of damage. Fishing for salmon should be at near normal levels when the season starts in June. However, some salmon processing ordinarily taking place in Alaska may have to take place elsewhere this year.

TABLE III

VALUE OF FISHERIES PRODUCTS
ALASKA 1962
(Thousands of dollars)

Region	Salmon	Halibut	Herring	Shellfish	Other	Total	Percent of Total
Southeast ..	30,192	7,662	798	2,479	295	41,426	31
Southcentral	54,129	2,626	—	15,658	1	72,414	55
Southwest	18,098	—	—	—	—	18,098	14
Total Alaska	102,419	10,288	798	18,137	296	131,938	
Percent of Total ...	78	8	—	14	—		100

The earthquake apparently caused drastic changes to the underwater topography. Experts feel that many of the normal salmon beds may have been damaged or destroyed. If such is the case future salmon populations may be drastically and adversely altered.

Damage to the king crab industry in Alaska was very extensive. The king crab fishing season had begun prior to the earthquake and the value of fishing vessels lost amounted to about seven million dollars. Other property damage to the industry including the loss of three of four canneries in Kodiak and the destruction of cold-storage plants and associated dock facilities swelled the total loss to over 20 million dollars.

Reports indicate the halibut industry will not be seriously affected by the March 27 disaster. The industry should be fully geared for production in time for its summer fishing season and fishing for halibut should be at a nearly normal level in 1964. This fish which accounted for about 8 per cent of the total value of fishery products in 1962 generally is not processed in Alaska. It is frozen and shipped directly to point-of-destination.

The total fishing fleet in Alaska before the earthquake amounted to 2,096 ships over five tons and 7,150 ships under five tons having a total value of 70 million dollars. The fishing fleet in the south central area consisted of 820 ships over five tons and 2,850 vessels under five tons and had a value before the disaster of 25 million dollars. Approximately 255 vessels valued at about 7 million dollars were lost or damaged. Almost all of this destruction was restricted to vessels operating in the king crab industry. The remaining fleet in Alaska has an estimated value of 63 million dollars with 18 million dollars worth of it in the south-central area.

Alaska Earthquake Damage

The State Reconstruction and Development Planning Commission for Alaska headed by Governor William A. Egan has submitted estimates of Alaska's earthquake and seismic wave damage to appropriate federal officials. The minimum patent damage known at present amounts to an estimated 352,832,000 dollars broken down as shown in the following table.

TABLE IV

ESTIMATED MINIMUM DAMAGE TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PRIVATE PROPERTY CAUSED BY THE ALASKA EARTHQUAKE, MARCH 27, 1964
(in dollars)

Area or Facility	Damage to Public Facilities	Damage to Private and Commercial Property	Total Damage
Anchorage	$56,745,000	$143,218,000	$199,963,000
Kodiak	3,400,000	18,900,000	22,300,000
Seward	4,698,000	5,416,000	10,114,000
Homer	55,000	730,000	785,000
Valdez	2,515,000	5,950,000	8,465,000
Kodiak Island Villages	420,000	1,782,000	2,202,000
Peripheral Areas			
General	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,500,000
Highways	80,000,000		80,000,000
Off-system Roads	500,000		500,000
Public Buildings	16,133,000		16,133,000
Moorage Facilities ..	2,120,000		2,120,000
Equipment	250,000		250,000
State Airports	500,000		500,000
Fishing Vessels and Gear		7,000,000	7,000,000
TOTAL	168,336,000	184,496,000	352,832,000

Possible latent damage added to this minimum estimate could easily raise the total damage to a maximum of 500,000,000 dollars.

Petroleum and Natural Gas

The major earthquake damage sustained by the petroleum and natural gas industry was to fuel storage facilities in the Seward, Anchorage, Kodiak and Valdez areas rather than to the refinery and production operations on the Kenai Peninsula. The Standard Oil of California Company refinery at Kenai suffered no serious damage and has been put back on stream to process 20,000 barrels

per day of the crude oil production. Natural gas is flowing from the Ohio Oil Company and the Union Oil Company gas fields on the Kenai Peninsula. This gas (about 2 billion cubic feet) is flowing through the 16 million dollar 82 mile Alaska pipeline from the Kenai fields into Anchorage. In spite of the severe seismic turbulence in this area, the gas pipeline is still in use. All essential needs of petroleum and natural gas in Alaska are being met.

It is apparent that the state will not suffer much revenue loss from the petroleum industry as a direct result of the earthquake. This fact is of particular importance now that other sources of state revenues have been impaired.

The importance of a healthy petroleum industry to the economy of the state is evidenced by the fact that from 1959 through the year 1963 revenue in excess of 78 million dollars were received by the state of Alaska from the oil industry, reflecting payments of leases, rentals, bonus bids and royalties.

Despite the earthquake the year 1964 promises to be another period of expansion for the petroleum industry in Alaska. Stepped-up exploration activities are taking place in the Cook Inlet Off-Shore and the Arctic Slope areas.

None of the major oil companies currently active in Alaska have given any indication that they plan to withdraw from the state.

Banking

The Federal Reserve Board of Governors eased its regulations for Alaska's commercial banks on April 14, 1964 in order to permit them to commit more of their funds to loans for rebuilding the areas devastated by the March 27th earthquake. Penalties are normally assessed against a commercial bank when its reserves fall below a certain point. The Federal Reserve Board indicated that such penalties will be waived for Alaska's banks provided that the lack of reserves stems from making reconstruction and rehabilitation loans. The policy will remain in effect for the remainder of 1964.

There are twelve commercial banks in Alaska; five are national banks and seven are state banks. These banks had a total of 252 million dollars in deposits as of December 20, 1963. (See Table V). Their outstanding loans and discounts on that date were 142 million dollars, and their cash and due from banks and their securities accounts contained 125 million dollars. Based on the proportionate size of the cash and securities accounts and the recent Federal Reserve action it appears that a substantial amount of funds are still available for lending by Alaska's banks.

The banks report that since the earthquake most of their loan activity is as high or higher than normal. Bank deposits are increasing. They are above the level of a year ago.

Reportedly the earthquake induced many residents of the state to take money out of mattresses, shoe boxes and other assorted hiding places and deposit it in the banks.

Another favorable factor in the financial picture is the apparent willingness of private institutions from outside Alaska to provide needed capital for rebuilding. One outside firm recently announced it would place 10 million dollars in mortgage money here in Alaska.

Members of the business and financial community throughout the state are highly optimistic about the future of Alaska's economy. Their optimism seems justified. There have been few business failures since the earthquake and the public and private reconstruction necessitated by the disaster cannot help but be stimulating to the economy. Many businessmen are waiting to see how much and what type of assistance will be provided by the Federal Government before they proceed with new construction. It is felt that much of the rebuilding capital will have to come from the Small Busines Administration and other governmental agencies.

TABLE V

A CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION of ALASKA COMMERCIAL BANKS AS OF DEC. 20, 1963

Cash and Due from Banks	$ 36,599,248
Securities	88,517,420
Loans and Discounts	141,922,441
Banking Houses and Equipment	7,327,845
Other Assets	4,309,912
TOTAL ASSETS	$278,676,866
Demand Deposits	137,051,410
Savings Deposits	115,851,437
Other Liabilities	3,141,661
Capital	7,127,580
Surplus	5,560,765
Undivided Profits	4,688,131
Reserves	5,255,882
Total Capital Accounts	22,632,358
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	$278,676,866

Timber and Pulp Industry

Alaska's timber and pulp industry employs in excess of two thousand people. Employment is largely concentrated in and around the coastal cities of Ketchikan and Sitka. Each of these cities provides the location for a large capacity pulp plant.

The two plants, the Ketchikan Pulp Company and the

Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company each employ approximately one third of the total timber and pulp workers in Alaska either directly or in locally based supportive operations.

With the exception of a few small sawmills the timber and pulp industry was virtually unaffected by the earthquake and tidal waves. The industry is currently in full operation and prospects for this year appear good. Local lumber production will undoubtedly be greatly stimulated by increased construction activity throughout Alaska.

Tourism

Tourism is a source of considerable income to Alaska each year. Income derived from tourists in 1963 was estimated to be in excess of fifty million dollars. The year 1964 should prove to be another very active tourist year, perhaps even a record year.

Alaska did not lose any of its scenic attractions during the earthquake and these together with curiosity about the earthquake scene itself should prove to be a powerful magnet. In most areas of the state, visitor accomodations are ready and will be able to accomodate any tourists who might visit Alaska this year.

Juneau, Ketchikan and Fairbanks, three of the states four largest cities, sustained little or no damage from the earthquake or its seismic waves. Anchorage suffered severe damage but is quickly recovering. At present, approximately 90 per cent of its business district is functioning, according to the State Chamber of Commerce. Anchorage should be ready for the tourist season which starts about mid-May.

Alaska Unemployment

Compared to the other 49 states Alaska has a very high rate of unemployment. Alaska's problem of seasonal unemployment is particularly chronic. During the past three years the annual average rate of unemployment in Alaska has never been below 8.5 percent. Table VI shows the annual average percentage of the total civilian work force unemployed in Alaska and its four largest cities for the last three years.

TABLE VI

ANNUAL AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CIVILIAN WORK FORCE UNEMPLOYED IN ALASKA AND SELECTED ALASKAN CITIES

1961-1963

	1961	1962	1963
Anchorage	6.7	5.9	6.2
Fairbanks	10.8	8.6	7.9
Juneau	5.7	5.4	4.7
Ketchikan	13.6	9.5	8.5
State of Alaska	9.5	8.5	8.5

ESTIMATED CIVILIAN WORKFORCE AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR ALASKA

INDUSTRY	March* 1964	PERCENT CHANGE FROM February 1964	March 1963
CIVILIAN WORKFORCE	74,000	0	+ 3
INVOLVED IN WORK STOPPAGES	0	0	0
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT	9,000	- 8	+ 5
Percent of Workforce	12.2	—	—
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	65,000	+ 2	+ 2
Non Agricultural Wage and Salary	57,000	+ 1	+ 3
Mining	1,000	+11	- 9
Construction	1,900	+ 6	+ 6
Manufacturing	4,000	+ 5	0
Food Processing	1,400	- 7	- 7
Logging Lumber and Pulp	1,900	+19	+ 6
Other Manufacturing	700	0	0
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	6,100	- 2	- 5
Trucking and Warehousing	700	-13	0
Water Transportation	900	0	0
Air Transportation	1,600	0	- 6
Other Transportaton, Communication and Utilities	2,900	0	- 6
Trade	8,100	+ 3	+ 1
Wholesale Trade	1,500	0	0
Retail Trade	6,600	+ 3	+ 2
General Merchandise Apparel	1,700	+ 6	0
Food Stores	1,100	0	+10
Eating and Drinking Places	1,600	+ 7	0
Other Retail Trade	2,200	0	0
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1,900	0	+12
Service and Miscellaneous	6,300	+ 2	+ 2
Government	27,700	+ 1	+ 5
Federal	17,200	+ 1	+ 6
State	5,900	0	+ 4
Local	4,600	0	+ 5

* These data do not reflect any employment dislocations which may have occurred in March due to the March 27 earthquake. Estimates of such changes will be shown in later issues as they develop.

The seasonal aspect of Alaska's employment is not shown by table VI, however its intensity can be graphically illustrated by the fact that within the last three years during the winter months the average monthly unemployment rate in Anchorage has been as high as 10 percent while the average monthly rates in Fairbanks, Juneau and Ketchikan have been as high as 17.4 per cent; 10.0 per cent and 21.4 per cent respectively.

Another unique aspect of Alaska's employment picture is the great reliance placed on various governmental units for employment opportunities. During 1963, the per cent of the civilian work force employed by the federal, state or local governments averaged 42.1 in Anchorage; 39.6 in Fairbanks; 51.3 in Juneau and 18.6 in Ketchikan. The overall average for the state in March 1964 was 42.6 percent. See table VII above.

Approximately 33,000 thousand military personnel are stationed in Alaska. This figure has been relatively constant for the past five years.

The total personal income received by the civilian government and military personnel in Alaska in 1962 totaled 297 million dollars. This was 45.3 per cent of all personal income received in Alaska during this period. These sources of personal income and employment should not be adversely affected by the March 27 disaster.

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

Population in City Limits 6,900	January 1964 Population in Trade Area 10,500	Number of occupied dwelling units 2,450

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS	January 1964	Percent change from December 1963	Percent change from January 1963
Mining	0	0	-100
Contract Construction	200	0	+25
Manufacturing	670	-11	- 3
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	500	+ 4	+ 9
Trade	470	- 8	+ 7
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	90	0	+13
Service and Miscellaneous	310	- 3	+11
Government	710	- 5	+ 7
Other	420	- 5	+ 8
Total Employment	3,370	- 5	+ 6
Total Unemployment	720	+33	- 8
Total Civilian Workforce	4,090	0	+ 3
Percent Unemployed	17.6		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	$29,029	+128	+39
Telephones in Service	3,680		
Lighting and Power Customers	3,261		
Municipal Water Customers	2,259		
Kilowatt Hours Produced 1962	42,327,800		

Ketchikan

Estimated total employment in the Ketchikan labor market area moved upward seasonally from 3,370 in January (see table above) to 3,460 in mid February, according to the Alaska Department of Labor. The reopening of a major logging camp and work on preliminary phases of construction projects account for the increase. Compared to a year ago, the most important change is in a lower level of employment in manufacturing. In most other industries employment levels are slightly higher than a year ago.

The total number of unemployed persons in the Ketchikan area during February was about the same as the January total shown in the table above. Compared to February last year however, there were 210 more jobless persons in the area seeking employment. This is an increase of 38.2 percent. This large increment was due primarily to the greater number of workers who remained in the Ketchikan area during the past winter rather than migrating to other places. The resulting change in the winter unemployment situation in Ketchikan is reflected by a large year-to-year increase in the number and total amount of unemployment insurance benefit payments.

The outlook for employment in the Ketchikan area for 1964 is good. Pulp manufacturing will continue at its present high level and the largest saw mill in the area will resume operations much earlier than in recent years due to heavy export orders.

JUNEAU, ALASKA

Population in City Limits 7,500	January 1964 Population in Trade Area 12,000	Number of occupied dwelling units 1960 2,286

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS	January 1964	Percent change from December 1963	Percent change from January 1963
Mining	10	0	0
Contract Construction	170	-19	+31
Manufacturing	110	- 8	- 8
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	420	0	- 2
Trade	550	- 5	+ 4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	120	0	0
Service and Miscellaneous	450	+ 2	- 2
Government	2,780	0	+11
Other	510	0	+ 6
Total Employment	5,120	- 1	+ 7
Total Unemployment	370	+19	0
Total Civilian Workforce	5,490	0	- 1
Percent Unemployed	6.7		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	$28,564	-25	- 3
Telephones in Service	4,533		
Lighting and Power Customers	7,581		
Municipal Water Customers	1,142		
Kilowatt Hours Produced in 1962	34,457,737		

Juneau

Estimated total employment in the Juneau labor market area moved upward from the 5,120 shown for January in the table above, to an estimated 5,260 in mid-February according to the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor. The 140 increase in the employment total resulted largely from increased construction activity, most of which was connected with the new Federal building, and from a small increase in Federal and State government employment. Compared to February of last year, total employment was higher by 300 jobs, primarily due to increased job opportunities in the Federal and State government areas. Smaller year-to-year increases occurred in contract construction, transportation, communications and public utilities and trade.

The total number of jobless persons looking for employment in the Juneau labor market area was estimated to be 370 in mid-February. This figure was unchanged from the comparable January figure shown in the table above. The unemployment rate, or percent of the workforce unemployed, declined slightly from January because of the increase in total employment. An upswing in employment over the past year caused the unemployment rate to drop from 7.6 percent twelve months ago to the 6.6 percent recorded in February 1964. This decline was reflected by a decrease in the number and total amount of unemployment insurance benefit payments, which were made in the Juneau area.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Population in City Limits	January 1964 Population in Trade Area	Number of occupied dwelling units
15,051	39,927	4,964

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS	January 1964	Percent change from December 1963	Percent change from January 1963
Mining	60	-33	-14
Contract Construction	510	-35	+24
Manufacturing	210	- 9	+11
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	770	- 1	+ 3
Trade	1,420	- 6	+ 8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	400	0	+ 5
Service and Miscellaneous	980	- 6	-16
Government	4,850	- 1	+ 8
Other	930	-10	+ 2
Total Employment	10,130	- 6	+ 4
Total Unemployment	1,190	+35	- 6
Total Civilian Workforce	11,320	- 3	+ 3
Percent Unemployed	10.5		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	$52,266	-39	- 9
Telephones in Service	5,472	0	+ 7
Lighting and Power Customers	9,411	+ 1	+11
Municipal Water Customers	1,975	0	+24
Kilowatt Hours Sales	8,935,000	+ 5	+18

Fairbanks

The Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor announced that estimated total employment in the Fairbanks labor market area moved upwards to 10,230 in mid-February from the January total of 10,130 shown in the table above. Increased employment in the Federal government area accounted for most of the month-to-month increase. The only other employment changes which occurred during this period were in the areas of trade and contract construction, which declined slightly and in the service area where the number of jobs edged upward.

Total employment in Fairbanks in February 1964 was 370 above the comparable figure in 1963. A rise in Federal employment was the most important factor in the year-to-year increase although substantial gains were also recorded over the past year in the trade and contract construction areas.

Total unemployment in the Fairbanks labor area was estimated to be 1,140 in mid-February. This was 50 less than the unemployment figure for January shown in the above table. The unemployment rate also moved down slightly from the previous month. These month-to-month changes were attributed primarily to out-migration. The February jobless total was 150 below that of a year ago, and the unemployment rate, or percent of the work force unemployed dropped to 10.0 from the 11.6 of twelve months earlier. The chief cause of this improvement was increased wintertime employment in contract construction.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Population in City Limits	January 1964 Population in Trade Area	Number of occupied dwelling units
49,700	102,100	14,311

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS	January 1964	Percent change from December 1963	Percent change from January 1963
Mining	440	- 8	+22
Contract Construction	1,040	-30	+20
Manufacturing	500	- 6	+ 9
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	2,040	- 1	-12
Trade	4,360	- 4	+ 8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1,000	0	+11
Service and Miscellaneous	2,910	0	+ 2
Government	11,980	0	+ 1
Other	2,550	- 2	+ 8
Total Employment	26,820	- 3	+ 3
Total Unemployment	2,310	+21	+ 9
Total Civilian Workforce	29,130	- 1	+ 3
Percent Unemployed	7.9		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	$144,776	-49	- 8
Telephones in Service	12,879		
Lighting and Power Customers	17,062		
Municipal Water Customers	7,560		
Total 1963 Kilowatt Hours Sales	218,365,464		

Anchorage

Estimated total employment in the Anchorage labor market area for mid-February remained relatively unchanged from the January figure shown in the table above. However, the 1964 February job total was 600 higher than the comparable figure for a year ago according to the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor. The increase was primarily due to changes in the trade and contract construction employment areas. The only decline in employment during this period was in the transportation - communications and public utilities areas, where employment dropped by 200 due to revisions in defense contracts.

The total number of unemployed persons looking for work in the Anchorage labor market area was estimated to be 2,490 in mid-February. This is 180 above the comparable figure for January shown in the table above. The unemployment rate, or percent of the workforce unemployed was 8.4 in February compared to 7.9 during the previous month. The higher unemployment rate during this period was due primarily to layoffs in the wholesale and retail trade areas and in contract construction.

The impact of the March 27 earthquake on employment in the Anchorage labor market area will undoubtedly be extensive. The immediate effect of the disaster on the employment situation will probably be felt in the area of construction activity which should be greatly stimulated, and in the retail trade area where employment opportunities will temporarily decline.