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Agriculture in Alaska

Alaska is a tremendously large state. Its 586,400 square mile area is so vast that were it to be divided into two equally sized states, Texas would suffer the ultimate indignity of becoming the third largest state in the Union.

A great preponderance of Alaska's land area is totally unsuited for agricultural development. Exactly how many of the 365 million acres of land in Alaska are cultivatable, is a subject certain to arouse heated controversy among the various experts. However, most estimates made of the amount of acreage suitable for agricultural development in the state range from one to approximately five percent of Alaska's total land area. Thus, the land area in Alaska which is potentially tillable is estimated to total somewhere between 3,650,000 and 18,250,000 acres. In addition, approximately 5 million acres of land in Alaska can be used for grazing lands, excluding extensive range lands which may be utilized by reindeer and musk-ox.

Approximately 2 million acres of land in the more favorable environments in Alaska have been surveyed thus far. Of this total, less than 40 percent is considered cultivatable. The remaining 60 percent is considered not to be tillable, although it probably can contribute to Alaska's animal feedbase as pasture and roughage land.

According to the 1959 U. S. Census of Agriculture, 888,000 acres of the total land area of Alaska were officially listed as "lands in farms." Over 90 percent of this "lands in farms" consisted of grazing lands on Kodiak Island leased in large blocks from the Bureau of Land Management. About 80,000 acres, comprising the remaining 10 percent, were used in raising crops for harvest, for pasture, or had not as yet been cleared of brush and trees. See Table I.

Actually, only 10,680 acres of land in Alaska were planted to crops in 1963. This was a 1 percent increase over 1962. Of the acres planted, 9,815 acres, or 92 percent,

were harvested. In addition to the above, 8,700 acres of seeded and native grasses were harvested.

Thus it is evident that only a strikingly small portion of Alaska's potential farmland is currently making any contribution whatsoever to the economic well-being of Alaska's citizens.

Many people are puzzled by the limited role agriculture plays in the state of Alaska, and it is not surprising that they should be puzzled. It is paradoxical that the state with the largest land area should produce less of its own citizens' food supply than does any other state. Also it is startling to realize that there are fewer than 400 farms in all of Alaska at the present time when there were more than 600 farms in 1939.

Since it has long been recognized that livestock and certain cool season crops can be grown in favorable sites throughout many parts of Alaska, why has not more agricultural development taken place?

Factors Limiting Agricultural Development

The factors responsible for limiting agricultural development in Alaska are primarily economic, not climatic, although some of the major obstacles to agricultural expansion in Alaska include both. Some of the many adverse factors retarding agricultural development in Alaska are discussed below.

The Alaskan Climate

The difficult Alaskan climate creates a variety of problems for farmers in Alaska. To begin with, there are only about one hundred frost free days a year in the agricultural producing areas of the state. Although there are many more hours of daylight each day during the growing season in Alaska than in other states, the season is very short. As a result, many products cannot be grown at all in Alaska and vegetable crops which can be grown, such as cabbage and lettuce, all mature at approximately

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the same time. This creates harvesting problems as well as marketing problems. During one or two months out of the year there is a large supply of Alaskan grown products. However, it is difficult and expensive to process or store these products and as a result they all tend to be dumped on the market at maturity, thereby depressing prices.

The short growing season in Alaska forces the food merchants in the state to procure agricultural products from outside sources during all but the few months of sufficient local supply.

Farm Costs

The high initial cost of developing a farm in Alaska is another factor which has hindered Alaskan agriculture. Farm operating costs also are high.

Most farms in Alaska today have been developed in a single generation starting with raw forested land. The clearing of this land and its initial cultivation has been expensive. The cost varies widely, depending upon the density of the timber stands, the thickness of the brush, and the type of equipment used. Clearing and root picking 100 acres of cropland may require an investment ranging from \$6,000 in burned-over country to \$50,000 in the heavy timber of southeastern Alaska.

Developing a homestead into a full-time commercial farm, typically requires a cash investment of from \$40,000 to \$60,000. The minimum size, the minimum investment and the volume of business usually needed for a profitable farm operation in Alaska is shown in Table 2. With good management and good luck a net yield of from \$5,000 to \$10,000 probably could be obtained from farms similar to those described in Table 2, after a development period of from 5 to 10 years. The difficulty of operating a profitable Alaskan farm is reflected in the fact that farm proprietors' income in Alaska totaled only approximately \$2 million in 1963.

Small Farms in Alaska

Alaskan farms are generally too small for the efficient use of modern, time and labor saving equipment. Restrictions limiting the size of a homestead to 160 acres have contributed to this problem.

The average size of Alaskan farms, according to the 1959 Census of Agriculture, is about 2,400 acres. This is much larger than the 300 acre average size for farms in the other states. However, excluding the 29 farms on Kodiak Island in 1959, which consisted of grazing land leased in large blocks from the Federal Government, the average size farm in Alaska contains only about 185 acres. Thus, as a rule, the average farm in Alaska is too small to permit large-scale low-cost farming.

Competition for Alaskan Markets

Except for wool, and a few specialty items such as reindeer meat, all agricultural production in Alaska is limited to commodities that will be used within the state. Alaskan commodities generally cannot be sold in markets

TABLE I

LAND UTILIZATION IN ALASKA						
1960						
	Tanana Valley	Matanuska Valley	Kenai Peninsula	Southeast Area	Kodiak Island	Alaska Total
Number of Farms	77	176	58	27	29	367
Land in Farms	13,606	39,715	6,623	2,623	804,764	867,331
Average Size of Farm	177	226	114	97	27,750	2,363
Cropland Harvested	2,559	10,369	569	348	497	14,342
Cropland Pasture	315	1,221	543	292	1,994	4,365
Idle Cropland	1,678	2,359	904	23	308	5,272
Woodland Pastured	353	2,029	588	211	39,105	42,286
Other Woodland	6,075	18,791	2,202	333	40,639	68,040
Other Pasture	328	1,854	553	982	499,213	502,930
Land Cleared Since 1950 . .	3,221	5,242	737	59	379	9,638
Woodland Suitable for Clearing	5,378	12,691	2,010	320	725	21,124

Census of Alaska Agriculture by Areas—1960, Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

TABLE II

**MINIMUM SIZE, PRODUCTION AND
CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR A PAYING ALASKAN FARM**

Type of Enterprise	Size	Volume of Production	Approximate Total Investment
Dairy	20-25 cows	200,000-250,000 gallons of milk	\$50,000-\$75,000
Poultry	2,500-3,000 hens	50,000-60,000 dozen eggs	\$25,000-\$35,000
Potato	30-35 acres	250-300 tons	\$40,000-\$50,000
Grain	250-300 acres	250-300 tons	\$70,000-\$80,000
Vegetable	20-25 acres	100-150 tons	\$25,000-\$40,000
Beef	125-225 acres	100-200 head	\$75,000-\$150,000

outside of Alaska because of high production and marketing costs. Thus, the only possible market for most Alaskan agricultural products is here in Alaska.

Alaskan farmers have found that local agricultural markets are highly competitive. Small local individual producers have competed so vigorously against one another for the limited potato and vegetable markets in the past, that the prices they received for their products have frequently been below their costs of production. With few exceptions, the lack of organized marketing and processing facilities have made it impossible for these small producers to market profitably the products they have worked so hard to raise.

In addition to the local competition, there is intensive competition for Alaska's markets from large, well organized lower-cost agricultural producers and processors in Canada and the other forty-nine states. For example, eggs can be purchased in the lower states and trucked into Fairbanks for a total cost of about twenty cents a dozen less than the price at which they can be procured locally. Milk can be purchased and air freighted into Fairbanks from Seattle for less than the local wholesale cost. Thus, prices of Alaskan products sold in Alaska must be somewhere near the Seattle prices plus freight and handling charges in order to be competitive, unless extra freshness, extra service, or some other non-monetary advantage is offered to offset the higher dollar cost.

The obvious conclusion is that local farmers must furnish Alaskan merchants with a dependable and uniform supply of high quality products in the quantities desired during most of the marketing year, or the largest part of the market will continue to be supplied by non-Alaskan producers.

Agricultural Employment in Alaska

Alaska has, by far, the smallest percentage of its workers employed in the agricultural sector of any of the fifty

states. The average of Alaska's total labor force employed in agriculture was estimated to be less than 1.5 percent in 1963. This contrasts sharply with the 7.2 percent average figure for the United States as a whole during the same period.

Table 3 shows the estimated number of persons working on Alaskan farms for selected months during 1963. The estimates are based on individual reports from farmers in the agricultural areas of the state. The "Family Workers" category includes all farm operators who worked on their farms and members of their families who worked 15 hours or more in the week tabulated, without receiving cash wages. "Hired Workers" are those who worked one hour or more on farms, at farm work for pay during the week surveyed. Total money wages paid for hired farm labor in 1963 totaled less than \$500,000 in Alaska.

September is the period of peak agricultural employment in Alaska. The green vegetable and potato crops mature at that time, and in addition dairy farmers are active harvesting hay and native grasses. During September in 1963, 2,000 workers were active on Alaskan farms compared to the 8 or 9 hundred who were performing farm related chores during the winter months.

TABLE III

**NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING ON
ALASKAN FARMS FOR SELECTED MONTHS
1963**

Month	Family Workers	Percent of Total	Hired Workers	Percent of Total	Total Workers
January	600	75	200	25	800
March	600	75	200	25	800
June	800	62	500	38	1,300
September	800	40	1,200	60	2,000
December	600	67	300	33	900
Annual Average	680	64	480	36	1,160

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Reporting Service

Much of the work force during the harvest period consists of seasonal labor working by the day, by the hour, or on a piecework basis. The number of family workers increases during the peak harvest season also, since many farms utilize all available help at this time. However, as noted, most of the seasonal fluctuation occurs in the number of hired workers.

Farm Wage Rates in Alaska

Farm wage rates in Alaska during 1963 averaged well above those of any other state. California's farm wage rates are closest to Alaska's rates for farm labor,

TABLE IV

**VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
IN ALASKA
1953-1963**

Thousands of Dollars

Year	Total Value of Production	Commercial Cash Receipts	Value Used in Farm and Home
1953	3,284	2,617	667
1954	3,097	2,559	538
1955	3,402	2,551	851
1956	4,239	3,258	981
1957	4,398	3,340	1,058
1958	4,676	3,350	1,326
1959	5,124	3,512	1,612
1960	5,437	3,855	1,582
1961	5,704	4,076	1,628
1962	5,827	4,071	1,756
1963	5,478	3,874	1,604

however even they were 16 to 34 percent below Alaska's rates during January 1964.

Alaska's farm wages on January 1, 1964 averaged \$385 per month with house, \$310 per month with board and room and \$2.00 per hour without board and room. The average wages offered in California on the same date were \$324 per month with house; \$240 per month with board and room; and \$1.32 per hour without board and room.

The fact that such high wages have to be paid in order to attract farm labor is one reason that farming is a high-cost, low-profit or non-profit business in Alaska.

In spite of these high farm wage rates however, Alaska farm operators have been able to employ only those workers who cannot, or will not, take construction work in Alaska, since the farm wage rate is only approximately one third of the rate paid for seasonal construction labor.

Production and Income

The total value of agricultural production in Alaska has increased slowly since 1953. (See Table 4). From 1953 to 1963 the total value of agricultural production went up from 3,284,000 to 5,478,000 dollars, an increase of 67 percent. During the same period, cash receipts from commercial sales increased 48 percent from 2,617,000 to 3,874,000 dollars.

The value of agricultural production in 1963 declined \$349,000 from the 1962 level, or slightly less than 6 percent. Cash receipts from commercial sales decreased \$197,000 or about 5 percent during the same period.

Location of Alaska's Farms

Alaska has five fairly distinct and well recognized agricultural regions. These are the Tanana Valley area which includes Fairbanks; the Matanuska Valley including Anchorage; the Southeast part of Alaska; the Kenai Peninsula area; and the Southwest and West areas encompassing Kodiak Island, Kotzebue and the Aleutian Islands.

The Matanuska Valley is the leading agricultural producing area in the state. Since 1960 it has produced roughly 70 percent of the total value of agricultural production in Alaska.

Most of Alaska's potato, grain, dairy, and vegetable farms are located in the Matanuska and Tanana Valleys. Kenai Peninsula's agricultural activity consists primarily of small farming operations but some production of dairy cattle, beef cattle, and hogs has developed in recent years. Southeastern Alaska contains a few dairy farms, a few small beef cattle operations, and a few poultry, and vegetable farms. Most of the beef cattle, sheep and reindeer are produced in the Southwest and West areas of Alaska.

Alaska's Agricultural Products

Dairying is Alaska's largest agricultural industry. It is the only type of farm enterprise in Alaska making full use of family labor throughout the entire year. On January 1, 1964 there were 62 Grade A dairies in Alaska which had a total of approximately 2,600 milk-producing cows.

Milk is the greatest source of agricultural income in Alaska. Milk receipts have accounted for an average of 53.3 percent of all commercial farm sales for the last four years. During 1963 the sale of milk brought Alaskan farmers \$2,218,000.

TABLE V

VALUE OF PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD IN ALASKA

1953-1963

Thousands of Dollars

Year	Milk	Eggs	Ranch Furs	Wool	Reindeer Meat	Other Livestock Products	Potatoes	Other Vegetables	Total
1953	1,016	274	57	38	N.A.*	161	836	235	2617
1954	1,204	306	37	30	N.A.	141	635	206	2559
1955	1,290	292	56	44	N.A.	177	520	172	2551
1956	1,509	315	70	46	N.A.	151	958	209	3258
1957	1,620	334	50	59	N.A.	186	842	249	3340
1958	1,604	378	20	48	138	214	680	268	3350
1959	1,771	424	50	62	135	228	578	264	3512
1960	2,078	454	31	49	132	203	712	196	3855
1961	2,318	424	—	54	136	184	761	199	4076
1962	2,276	400	—	63	139	326	635	232	4071
1963	2,218	369	—	97	137	275	582	196	3874

*Not Available

Potatoes, cabbage, carrots and lettuce are the chief vegetables produced in Alaska. In 1963, cash receipts of \$778,000 were obtained by Alaskan farmers from the sale of these crops. Yearly income received from the sale of these and other products are shown in Table 5.

The production of reindeer meat is peculiar to Alaskan agriculture and in 1963 brought cash receipts to producers of \$137,000. Under Federal law only natives are allowed to own private reindeer herds, of which there are now 15 to 20, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs administers the reindeer industry. Currently there are over 40,000 reindeer in Alaska. In 1963 Alaska produced 430,000 pounds of reindeer meat which came primarily from the herd of 15,000 on Nunivak Island.

Non-Commercial Food Production

The total number of private landholdings in Alaska can only be estimated, however there are approximately 2,500 rural homesteads in Alaska in addition to the commercial farms. These homesteaders and their families, along with many other rural residents, have indicated they do not intend to farm commercially, but do intend to grow some food for home use.

Alaska's population in 1960 included over 43,000 Indians, Eskimos and Aleuts, many of whom live in rural areas and who are dependent upon hunting, fishing, gardening, trapping and reindeer herding for sustenance. The extent of Alaskan native dependence on non-commercial food sources is best shown by an examination of data compiled and presented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to the Bureau, 2,092,193 pounds of game animals and by-products were harvested by the inhabitants of 50 native villages in 1962. Bureau figures indicate that 10,028 people and 9,754 work dogs were dependent to some degree upon this food supply which included such animals as seal, caribou, whale, moose, walrus, bear, muskrat, sea lion, beaver, rabbit, sheep and ground squirrel.

During 1962, these same small villages harvested 96,207 pounds of such game birds as geese, ducks, ptarmigan, auklets, grouse and cranes. They also collected 670 dozen wild bird eggs, and gathered and consumed over 100,000 pounds of salmonberries, blueberries, crowberries and other edible berries and plants. The 2,146,676 pounds of fish harvested by the natives in 1962 included all types of salmon and in addition whitefish, sheefish, trout, blackfish, pike, herring, smelt, flounder, halibut among many other types.

Labor Unions In Alaska Reconstruction

Alaska is a highly unionized state. All crafts employed in the construction trades have local unions chartered and established in Anchorage, and most of these unions have territorial jurisdictions awarded to them which em-

brace the areas damaged or destroyed by the March 27 earthquake. For example, although there are five other carpenter locals in areas damaged by the earthquake, the Anchorage local carpenters union has jurisdiction over the carpenters for all of the disaster area. Many of the other local unions have statewide jurisdiction. Thus, all craftsmen are referred to jobs in all of the disaster areas through the appropriate local union office in Anchorage. These unions have pledged that qualified unemployed Alaskans will be employed in Alaska reconstruction work before workers migrating from other states.

The Alaskan Construction Consultant Committee appointed by Senator Anderson recently concluded that there is sufficient labor, equipment and construction firms in Alaska to complete the restoration of the state over a three or four year period. The only reconstruction which the Committee feels must be done on a crash basis is that covering the replacement or repair of utilities in the various areas. In all other instances, appropriate agencies will have time to prepare complete plans and specifications and the contracting of work can be accomplished under a normal competitively bid basis.

The Commission believes that contractors engaged in a construction program will have a stabilized condition with regard to wages and working conditions for about two years. This is reflected in the duration of current labor agreements. Contractors can figure positive labor costs for a great majority of employees over two construction seasons.

Wage Rates

The labor agreements in Alaska contain wage rates that are probably in excess of those found in any other state. Although rates are not shown for specific working skills in Table VI, an examination of the data illustrates the general level of wages in Alaska. In addition to the

TABLE VI

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS BY SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN ALASKA (1963)			
INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings	Average Hourly Earnings	Average Weekly Hours
Mining	\$175.39	\$3.67	47.8
Contract Construction	262.33	6.01	43.6
Manufacturing	144.90	3.52	41.2
Food Processing	112.18	2.84	39.5
Logging, Lumber & Pulp	166.39	3.99	41.7
Wholesale Trade	140.67	3.76	37.4
Retail Trade*	120.04	3.22	37.3
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	99.30	NA	NA

*Excluding eating and drinking establishments

ESTIMATED CIVILIAN WORKFORCE AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR ALASKA

INDUSTRY	PERCENT CHANGE FROM		
	May 1964	April 1964	May 1963
CIVILIAN WORKFORCE	80,900	+ 6	+ 3
INVOLVED IN WORK STOPPAGES	0	0	0
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT	5,900	-23	- 6
Percent of Workforce	7.3	—	—
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	75,000	+ 9	+ 4
Non Agricultural Wage and Salary	64,800	+ 8	+ 4
Mining	1,200	+ 9	0
Construction	4,900	+29	+32
Manufacturing	5,700	+36	- 7
Food Processing	2,400	+100	-20
Logging, Lumber and Pulp	2,400	+ 9	+ 4
Other Manufacturing	900	+13	+13
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	6,600	+10	- 8
Trucking and Warehousing	1,000	+43	- 9
Water Transportation	1,000	+25	-17
Air Transportation	1,800	+ 6	0
Other Transportation, Communication and Utilities	2,800	0	-10
Trade	8,400	+ 4	- 2
Wholesale Trade	1,500	0	0
Retail Trade	6,900	+ 5	- 3
General Merchandise Apparel	1,700	0	- 6
Food Stores	1,100	0	0
Eating and Drinking Places	1,800	+ 6	0
Other Retail Trade	2,300	+10	- 4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2,000	+ 5	+11
Service and Miscellaneous	7,100	+ 6	+ 4
Government	28,900	+ 2	+ 7
Federal	17,800	+ 2	+ 7
State	6,500	+ 7	+10
Local	4,600	0	+ 5

high wage rates, the various labor agreements contain health, welfare and pension provisions that compare favorably with, or exceed, those in the other states. These wages and conditions assure without doubt an adequate supply of skilled and unskilled labor to supply all construction programs in Alaska regardless of the volume required.

Alaska Employment Trends

There were an estimated 75,000 civilians employed in Alaska in mid-May according to the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor. This was an increase of 6,200 or 9 percent over the mid-April figure and 2,900 or 4 percent over the figure for May 1963. See table above. For the sixth consecutive year in Alaska, the total job count in May exceeded the preceding May figure.

Over 2,000 jobs were added in the Federal, State and local government employment areas during the past year. Approximately 200 of the additional Federal government jobs were related to post-earthquake reconstruction activity. Reconstruction work also accounted for most of the 1,200 increase in employment which took place over the last year in contract construction.

The number of jobs in transportation-communications and utilities was down sharply due to the earthquake destruction of docks and warehouse facilities and to defense communications layoffs in the summer of 1963. Earthquake destruction also caused a sizeable job loss in the fish processing industry as well as a decrease in retail trade employment.

The total number of jobless persons looking for work in mid-May was estimated to be 5,900. This figure is down 1,800 from last month's total and is 400 below last year's figure. The unemployment rate, or percent of the work force unemployed, declined to 7.3 in May from the 10.1 figure for April. This year's May figure reflects a moderate improvement over the 8.0 rate recorded for May 1963.

Building Permits

There were 2,138 new housing units authorized by building permits in the state of Alaska in the four year period from 1960 through 1963. The greatest number of permits issued in any one year were issued in 1963 when 883 new housing units were authorized. The greatest percentage increase from any preceding year occurred in the year 1962, which increased 61 percent over 1961.

The City of Anchorage issued 1,459 permits from 1960 to 1963, which was 68 percent of the State total for the four year period. Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, and Douglas followed Anchorage in that order, issuing 191, 122, 77, and 56 permits, respectively.

NEW HOUSING UNITS AUTHORIZED BY BUILDING PERMITS IN ALASKA

1960-1963

Location	1960	1961	1962	1963
Ketchikan	4	1	1	10
Petersburg	0	9	2	7
Wrangell	12	3	3	NA
Sitka	NA*	13	10	17
Douglas	10	24	13	9
Juneau	2	37	10	73
Hoonah	0	0	0	NA
Cordova	NA	0	2	20
Valdez	2	2	7	20
Palmer	1	4	2	5
Anchorage	259	201	371	628
Seward	0	0	0	1
Kenai	0	11	35	31
Seldovia	0	1	5	0
Soldotna	0	10	18	6
Kodiak	9	7	4	15
Fairbanks	33	31	86	41
TOTAL	332	354	569	883

*Not Available

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA			
Population in City Limits 6,900	April 1964 Population in Trade Area 10,500	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units 2,450	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS			
	April 1964	Percent change from March 1964 April 1963	
Mining	0	0	0
Contract Construction	170	+55	-23
Manufacturing	1,170	+29	+5
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	520	+6	+13
Trade	470	0	+2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	90	0	+13
Service and Miscellaneous	330	+3	+10
Government	700	0	0
Other	550	+17	+8
Total Employment	4,000	+12	+4
Total Unemployment	340	-35	-32
Total Civilian Workforce	4,340	+6	0
Percent Unemployed	7.8		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts 1963	\$192,954		
Telephones in Service	2,613		+3
Lighting and Power Customers	3,287		+3
Municipal Water Customers	2,413		0
Kilowatt Hours Sales	3,481,740		+10

Ketchikan

The number of people employed in the Ketchikan labor market area in April was estimated at 4,000 which was an increase of 440 or 12 percent over March of this year and an increase of 4 percent over April of 1963. Most of the gain occurred in manufacturing and was reflected primarily by increased activity in lumbering and logging operations. Employment in water transportation went up as a result of increased pulp and lumber exports. Seasonal gains in construction, particularly highway construction, and the processing of the first halibut landings of the season created some new jobs. Employment in the transportation-communications and utilities category increased from last year because of the additional traffic through the Ketchikan terminal created by the new rail-barge facility.

The total number of unemployed job seekers decreased by 180 from March to the mid-April estimated figure of 340. April's unemployment rate of 7.8 percent was substantially less than the 13.0 rate for the preceding month and the 11.5 percent figure for April of 1963.

Pulp manufacturing is expected to continue at the present high level of production thereby assuring a firm market for logs, and employment in the fishing and fish processing industries is increasing seasonally as expected.

Since April 1963, the number of telephones in service, and the number of lighting and power customers increased by 3 percent.

JUNEAU, ALASKA			
Population in City Limits 7,500	April 1964 Population in Trade Area 12,000	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units 1960 2,286	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS			
	April 1964	Percent change from March 1964 April 1963	
Mining	10	0	0
Contract Construction	240	+9	+71
Manufacturing	180	+20	0
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	430	+8	0
Trade	650	+10	+8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	130	0	+8
Service and Miscellaneous	430	-4	0
Government	2,990	+2	+7
Other	550	+6	+4
Total Employment	5,610	+4	+7
Total Unemployment	240	-25	+33
Total Civilian Workforce	5,850	+2	+5
Percent Unemployed	4.1		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	\$25,969	+15	+16
Telephones in Service	4,533		
Lighting and Power Customers	7,581		
Municipal Water Customers	1,142		
Kilowatt Hours Produced 1962	34,457,737		

Juneau

Estimated total employment in the Juneau labor market area rose to 5,610 in mid-April from the March total of 5,240 according to the Employment Security Division of Alaska's Department of Labor. The yearly gain was even greater showing an increase of 380 or 7.3 percent over April of 1963.

The advance in employment from March to April was shared by most of the major industry categories. The figures showed no job losses of significant proportions in any of the major industries.

During May the employment situation continued to improve. A strong seasonal advance in contract construction employment together with smaller gains in trade, government and transportation-communications and utilities accounted for most of the increase in total employment.

Following the seasonal trend, the number of unemployed job seekers decreased from 240 in April to 180 in May. Additional jobs in May reduced the unemployment rate to 3.0 percent from the 4.1 percent rate for April. In the twelve month period from May of 1963 to May of 1964, joblessness declined only moderately.

The Juneau labor area encompasses the cities of Juneau, and Douglas, and in addition, the residential communities of Thane, Salmon Creek, Lemon Creek, Mendenhall Valley, Auke Bay, Mendenhall Peninsula, Lena Cove, Tee Harbor, and the interconnecting highways.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

	April 1964 Population in City Limits 15,051	April 1964 Population in Trade Area 39,927	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units 4,964	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS				
			Percent change from	
			April	April
			1964	1963
Mining	170		+42	0
Contract Construction	560		+14	- 2
Manufacturing	220		+10	0
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	790		+ 3	0
Trade	1,360		+ 1	0
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	420		+ 5	+ 2
Service and Miscellaneous	1,210		+ 3	- 4
Government	5,000		+ 2	+ 3
Other	1,100		+ 8	+ 1
Total Employment	10,830		+ 4	+ 1
Total Unemployment	1,250		+ 6	+ 6
Total Civilian Workforce	12,080		+ 4	+ 1
Percent Unemployed	10.3			
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA				
Postal Receipts	\$58,092		- 5	0
Telephones in Service	5,643		+ 3	+ 4
Lighting and Power Customers	9,268		0	+ 8
Municipal Water Customers	1,945		- 1	+22
Kilowatt Hours Sales	7,067,230		- 4	+15

Fairbanks

There were approximately 10,830 people employed in the Fairbanks labor market area in mid-April, according to the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor. This was an increase of 420 from mid-March and an increase of 110 over last April. All major industries showed a seasonal upswing, with the largest increases taking place in government, contract construction, mining and services.

There were approximately 1,250 job seekers unemployed in mid-April which was an increase of 60 over March, however the unemployment rate remained constant due to employment increases. Both the number of unemployed and the unemployment rate this year increased slightly over April of 1963.

Although the construction season started late this year due to permafrost conditions, employment is expected to increase steadily and reach its peak by mid-August.

April postal receipts in Fairbanks showed a 5 percent decrease from March, and the kilowatt hours sales decreased 4 percent during the same period. The latter can be attributed to the increased number of daylight hours in April compared to March. From March to April of this year, telephones in service increased by 3 percent, lighting and power customers remained constant, and the number of municipal water customers decreased by 1 percent. Compared to last year's April figures, kilowatt hour sales were up by 15 percent in Fairbanks.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

	April 1964 Population in City Limits 49,700	April 1964 Population in Trade Area 102,100	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units 14,311	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS				
			Percent change from	
			April	April
			1964	1963
Mining	510		+13	+ 6
Contract Construction	1,670		+52	+69
Manufacturing	640		+23	+21
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	2,110		+ 8	- 7
Trade	3,950		- 6	- 8
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1,080		- 2	+16
Service and Miscellaneous	2,780		-14	-12
Government	12,540		+14	+ 5
Other	2,380		- 5	- 6
Total Employment	27,660		+ 2	+ 2
Total Unemployment	2,370		-10	- 3
Total Civilian Workforce	30,030		+ 1	+ 2
Percent Unemployed	7.8			
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA				
Postal Receipts	\$148,300		- 1	+ 5
Telephones in Service	24,908		- 4	+ 2
Lighting and Power Customers	8,327		- 6	- 6
Municipal Water Customers	9,664		- 2	- 4
Kilowatt Hours Sales	7,484,593		-18	-11

Anchorage

Estimated total employment in the Anchorage labor market area increased to 27,660 in mid-April according to the Employment Security Division of Alaska's Department of Labor. This was an increase of 590 over the mid-March total. See table above. Compared to the same month last year, total employment in April was higher by 500. Post-earthquake demolition and reconstruction work accounted for much of the increase but Federal government employment also went up as a result of the earthquake.

Unemployment in mid-April was 2,370, which was down 260 from the previous month and 80 less than the total in April of 1963. The unemployment rate was 7.8 in April of this year which was a slight decrease from the 8.3 figure for April 1963.

Construction activity is progressing steadily in the Anchorage area. Reconstruction, combined with normal progress on the regular projects planned prior to the earthquake, has created an improved employment situation this June compared to June of 1963. Employment levels in all industries are gradually rising due to normal seasonal factors. Certain local unions report they are nearing the end of their dispatch lists. By mid-July the carpenters union reported 910 carpenters were working and only 12 were unemployed. In addition, 62 roofers were working, compared to 11 unemployed, and 280 painters were employed with only 6 not working.