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Alaska's Fisheries Industry

The economic health of the state's commercial fisheries is of prime importance to all of Alaska. The livelihood of thousands of Alaskan fishermen and the very existence of many Alaskan communities depends upon the state's commercial fisheries operations. In numerous coastal communities in Alaska, commercial fishing provides the sole means of obtaining the economic necessities of life.

The fisheries industry has played a vital role in the economic development of Alaska for almost 90 years. The first year of commercial fisheries production in Alaska was 1878, just 11 years after Alaska was purchased from Russia. A pack of 8,159 cases of salmon was produced in Alaska during that year. After 1878 the output of Alaska's fisheries industry expanded year after year until it reached a peak production of 8,500,000 cases of salmon in 1936. At its height the industry provided employment for more than 25,000 persons.

Alaska's fisheries production, which had expanded steadily for over four decades, began to decrease after 1936. There is no single reason for the great decline in the salmon resource which has occurred since that date. Rather the reduction has resulted from the interaction of biological, social, economic, political and other forces. However, many economists and biologists feel that the various federal government bureaus, which had the sole responsibility of managing Alaska's salmon resource from the time of Alaska's purchase in 1867 until January 1, 1960, could have implemented much more effective policies during this period. It is felt that Alaska's salmon production could have been maintained on a relatively stable basis after 1936 if the federal governmental bureaus had been more diligent in applying the known scientific knowledge in fisheries management and if they had been more resistant to pressures from industry owners and

operators. However, it is an unfortunate fact that in 1959, the last year of the federal management of Alaska's salmon resource, production dropped to a low of less than 1,700,000 cases.

The State of Alaska assumed responsibility for the management of its own fisheries resources in 1960. Since that time the State has worked steadily to revitalize the industry. Each year since the resource has been under state management, except for 1963, the salmon pack has increased substantially. Over the past five seasons, Alaska's canned salmon production has more than doubled. The salmon pack in 1964 exceeded 3,600,000 cases and was the largest of any during the past 15 years.

FISHERIES PRODUCTION IN 1963

The total value of all fisheries production in Alaska exceeded \$109 million in 1963. This was a decrease of 17 percent from the large total value of the industry's 1962 production, but it was 51 percent above the value of the industry's output in 1959. See Table I. The total value of Alaska's salmon production in 1963 was almost \$76 million.

The shellfish component of Alaska's fisheries industry has expanded greatly each year for the last several years and its value in 1963 increased almost \$6 million, or about 33 percent, above the previous year's level. The \$24,103,000 total value of shellfish production in 1963 was an impressive 235 percent above the \$7,194,000 value of shellfish production in 1959. Most of this increase is the result of the extremely rapid growth of the king crab and dungeness crab operations.

The value of fish caught by Alaska's fisheries industry in 1963 was greater than the value of the fisheries production of any other state except for California. Alaska accounted for 13 percent of the national fish catch (by weight) in 1963.

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William R. Wood—President, University of Alaska
William M. Dickson—Acting Director of the Institute of
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Leo M. Loll, Jr.—Editor

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PACIFIC SALMON

The Alaskan fisheries industry catches and processes 5 distinct species of Pacific salmon. These are the red salmon (also known as the sockeye in Canada and the Puget Sound area); the king salmon (known in other regions as the chinook or spring salmon); the silver salmon (or coho, as it is often called); the pink salmon (also known as the humpback); and the chum salmon (or dog salmon). In 1963, members of Alaska's fisheries industry caught and processed approximately 80 percent of the total Pacific salmon taken by U. S. fishermen.

All five species of Pacific salmon in Alaska are born in the lakes and headwaters of rivers which have outlets into the ocean. When the young salmon are old enough, they migrate from these nurseries to the sea, where they live for a varying number of years. Pacific salmon have a highly developed homing instinct which upon maturity leads each fish back to the exact place of its birth where

it spawns and dies. The salmon are caught each summer during the few months in which they are returning to their home spawning grounds.

Part of the problem of salmon conservation concerns this biological homing feature. There are almost 2,000 salmon streams in Alaska which collectively contain an estimated ten thousand separate spawning units or beds. If access to any one of these spawning units is cut off, or if a particular stream is depleted through over-fishing, a separate population of salmon with specific racial characteristics may be irretrievably lost. Thus, each stream must be viewed as a separate unit for purposes of conservation.

Conservation of Alaska's salmon resource is further complicated by the fact that separate salmon runs fluctuate in size due to changes in water levels, temperatures, and other natural environmental conditions. Furthermore, since salmon are found primarily in public waters no individual can claim them exclusively and anyone complying with Alaska's commercial fishing regulations may fish for them. This makes it difficult to control the quantity taken of any specific salmon group.

Another complicating factor in salmon management and processing is the fact that if harvestable salmon are not processed in a relatively short time they are permanently lost. There is no way to speed up the production lines at a later time to make up for lost output. More-

Table I

VALUE OF FISHERIES PRODUCTION IN ALASKA

1950-1963

(thousands of dollars)

Year	Total	Salmon		Herring	Halibut	Shellfish	Other
		Canned	Other				
1950	100,156	82,347	4,744	3,820	6,082	2,917	246
1951	95,916	79,249	6,638	2,070	4,199	3,128	631
1952	88,534	76,362	3,692	945	4,731	2,553	252
1953	69,671	58,178	3,889	805	3,261	3,198	340
1954	77,986	63,357	4,850	900	4,478	3,939	461
1955	69,723	56,869	3,748	1,531	3,220	3,919	435
1956	94,618	78,577	5,036	2,263	5,246	3,057	440
1957	79,231	62,909	5,248	2,116	3,631	4,847	480
1958	83,743	66,127	6,315	1,919	5,013	4,164	205
1959	72,204	49,493	6,742	2,263	6,057	7,194	455
1960	96,689	76,553	6,555	1,390	3,736	7,992	463
1961	128,726	98,297	8,753	959	7,035	13,373	309
1962	131,938	94,422	7,997	798	10,288	18,138	295
1963	109,038	67,477	8,511	755	7,929	24,103	263

Source: United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Fisheries, Annual Summaries 1950-59; Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Commercial Fisheries Catch and Production Statistics, Statistical Leaflets Nos. 1, 3, 5, and 7.

Table II

**ANALYSIS OF VALUE OF SALMON CAUGHT AND PROCESSED
IN ALASKA IN 1963**

Species of Salmon	Number of Pounds Caught	Percent of Total Catch	Number of Pounds Processed	Percent Lost in Processing	Average Price Per Pound Paid to Fishermen (in cents)	Average Wholesale Value Per Pound After Processing (in cents)	Total Value of Catch Before Processing (in dollars)	Total Value of Catch After Processing (in dollars)	Percent Increase in Value Added by Processing
King	9,160,530	4	6,216,920	32.1	34.1	80.9	3,126,640	5,031,360	61
Red	35,455,670	16	23,864,940	32.7	21.6	83.2	7,643,860	19,862,450	160
Silver	17,581,180	8	12,988,600	26.1	17.1	55.5	3,008,820	7,206,550	140
Pink	125,117,390	56	77,532,610	38.0	11.6	44.6	14,472,380	34,592,430	139
Chum	35,748,410	16	21,939,300	38.6	8.5	41.2	3,046,550	9,035,180	197
Total	223,063,180	100	143,614,470*	35.6	14.0	52.9	31,298,250	75,987,800*	143

*Total includes 601,560 pounds of eggs valued at 39.6 cents per pound with a total value after processing of \$237,960, and 470,540 pounds of viscera valued at 4.6 cents per pound with a total value of \$21,870.
Source: Computed from data obtained from the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game.

over, the flooding of spawning streams with large surpluses of salmon causes propagation damage from which it takes several years to recover.

During 1963, over 223 million pounds of salmon were caught by Alaska's fisheries industry. Over half of the salmon taken during this period were pink salmon, while king salmon constituted only 4 percent of the total catch. See Table II. The red and chum species each comprised 16 percent of the 1963 catch and the silver 8 percent.

An examination of the data in Table II discloses that almost 36 percent of the total weight of the salmon caught in 1963 was lost in processing. This extremely wasteful aspect of salmon processing might be modified or eliminated through well directed research. Obviously, the development of some profitable method of converting this discarded salmon into a saleable product could substantially improve the economic well-being of Alaska's fisheries industry.

During 1963, the price per pound paid to the salmon fisherman by the processor averaged 14 cents. The average price per pound paid ranged from a high of 34.1 cents for kings down to 8.5 cents per pound for chum salmon. The wholesale value per pound after processing averaged 52.9 cents. The salmon fishermen received a total of slightly over 31 million dollars for their catch in 1963 while the total value of the catch after processing was almost 76 million dollars.

The percentage increase in value added to the salmon by processing varied substantially among the different species of salmon. Processing added 61 percent to the value of the king salmon during 1963. During that year 33 percent of the kings were canned, 29 percent were frozen and about 37 percent were processed by curing. See Table III. During 1963, processing increased the value

of the red salmon catch by 160 percent. It also added 139 percent in value to the pink salmon pack and 197 percent in value to the chum catch. Table III shows that 95 percent or more of the value of each of these three species was canned in 1963.

The silver salmon catch had 140 percent added to its value by processing in 1963. During that year about half of the silver salmon taken were processed by canning and the other half were frozen.

METHODS OF FISHING

The five species of Pacific salmon are caught in a variety of ways in Alaska. Throughout the state's 90 year commercial fishing history, four principal types of gear have been used. These are: gillnets (both drift and set); seines, (including purse seines, hand-purse seines and beach seines); trollers; and traps.

An examination of the data in Table IV indicates that the various species of salmon frequently are caught by different methods. King salmon are caught predominately by troller while almost 90 percent of the pink salmon caught in recent years have been taken by seines.

Distinct changes have taken place over the years in the importance of the various types of gear used to take salmon. For example, fish traps, which accounted for over 50 percent of the total salmon caught during the years from 1925 to 1935, are virtually unused today in commercial fishing. During the period from 1961 through 1964 less than 1 percent of all the salmon caught were taken by fish traps. Fish traps have long been outlawed in British Columbia, Oregon and Washington. However, the Federal Government did not act on frequent urgent requests for their general abolishment in Alaska until passage of the Alaska Statehood Act in 1958.

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF FISH PRODUCTS

Consumers in the United States eat much more meat and chicken each year than they do fish. In 1963, the per capita consumption of fish products was only 10.2 pounds while the per capita consumption of chicken was over 30 pounds or almost 3 times as much. During this same period the per capita consumption of meat was almost 170 pounds or about 16 pounds of meat for each pound of fish consumed.

The annual per capita consumption of all fish products in the United States has remained between about 10 and 11 pounds for the last 20 years. Thus, for the past two decades total fish consumption in the United States has grown at about the same rate as the country's population. During this same 20 year period however, per capita consumption of chicken has increased over 50 percent and per capita consumption of meat has gone up about 10 percent. Thus, fish gradually has been losing its relative position as a food on America's tables.

More important for Alaska however, are the changes that have taken place in the types of fish being eaten by U. S. consumers. Directly affecting Alaska's economy is the fact that per capita consumption of canned salmon in 1963 was less than half of what it was in 1940. Per capita consumption of canned tuna during the same period more than tripled. The per capita consumption of canned salmon, which was 2.0 pounds in 1940, had decreased to .9 pounds by 1963. On the other hand, per capita consumption of canned tuna had increased to 2.0 pounds by 1963 from its .6 pound level of 1940. Thus, it is obvious that the American housewife is choosing to serve her family more tuna and less salmon. The questions to be answered are, why, and what can be done about it? Unless Alaska can find satisfactory answers to these questions, the canned salmon component of the state's

Table III

AVERAGE PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF ALASKAN SALMON BY SPECIE AND METHOD OF PROCESSING FOR TWO YEARS 1962-1963					
Specie	Canned	Frozen	Cured*	Fresh	Percent of all Species
King	33.0	29.1	36.9	1.0	5.6
Red	98.5	1.4	0.05	0.05	27.3
Silver	53.1	43.8	2.5	0.6	7.5
Pink	98.3	1.7	0.0	0.04	45.3
Chum	95.8	4.1	0.05	0.05	14.3
Percent of all Species	91.0	6.6	2.3	0.1	100

*Includes Mild Cured, Pickled, Salted, Smoked (other than canned) or Kippered.

Source: Computed from data obtained from the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game.

Table IV

AVERAGE PERCENT OF THE VALUE OF ALASKAN SALMON CATCH BY SPECIE AND TYPE OF GEAR FOR FOUR YEARS 1961-1964

Specie	Seines*	Drift Gillnet	Set Gillnet	Trollers	Fish Traps	Fish-wheels	Percent of all Species
King	1.1	19.3	17.1	62.4	0.0	0.1	7.5
Red	13.6	72.1	14.2	0.02	0.1	0.0	38.1
Silver	11.5	21.6	16.9	49.8	0.2	0.0	7.3
Pink	89.4	2.9	5.7	0.3	1.7	0.0	36.2
Chum	67.0	26.0	6.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	10.9
Percent of all Species	45.8	34.4	10.7	8.4	0.7	0.01	100

*Includes Purse Seine, Hand-purse Seine and Beach Seine.

Source: Computed from data obtained from the Alaska State Department of Fish and Game.

fisheries industry will encounter increasing difficulty in selling its products.

The key to the improvement of the demand for canned salmon may be in a more active promotion of a better quality product, priced more competitively. Today's canned salmon is virtually the same as that produced 30 years ago, and with several desirable alternatives to salmon available at attractive prices, it's competitive position is worsening. To regain its position Alaska's salmon industry needs to make an extra effort to produce a product which will provide full customer satisfaction at the most economical levels possible. Quality is the most important factor, since without quality most housewives will not buy a second can of salmon regardless of the price.

Obviously Alaska's canneries cannot produce a high quality product unless they receive high quality salmon to pack. Thus the condition of the raw salmon when sold to the canneries is of primary importance in determining the ultimate quality of the canned salmon. Two major factors affect the condition of the raw salmon prior to processing. These factors are the maturity of the salmon when caught, and the freshness of the salmon when delivered to the cannery.

When caught at the proper time salmon are bright, firm, prime fish which provide the basis for a colorful, tasty pack. Conversely, over mature salmon, are soft, water marked and when processed constitute a generally unappetizing pack. Each year the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, through its regulations, indicates when Alaska's Pacific salmon may be caught, and thus the Department is in a position to materially influence the quality of the salmon taken for processing. Since quality perfection is not always possible at the time of catch, some method of grading raw salmon should be established and price dif-

ferentials should be paid based on quality. Canned salmon labels could indicate the grade of salmon being sold and lower prices could help sell the lower quality salmon.

The freshness of the salmon, which is a second factor affecting its condition prior to processing, is determined by the length of time which elapses between the time the salmon is caught and the time it is processed. The sooner the salmon is processed the better its quality. The temperature of the salmon during this period is also very important, as is the method by which the fish are handled after they are caught. Thus, freshness is initially the responsibility of the fisherman. However, even the freshest of salmon delivered to a processor can lose its quality unless the plant is geared for the rapid handling of the quantity received. Reliable long range predictions of salmon runs undoubtedly would help both the fishermen and the processors prepare for an economic, orderly processing of the varying quantities of salmon they encounter and thus help them produce a higher quality lower cost product. State inspection of fishing vessels and processing facilities would help maintain sanitary conditions which would contribute toward a higher quality product.

FISHERIES EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Alaska's sea food canning and preserving industry has been declining since shortly after the end of World War II. Except for a few scattered years, both the average employment level and the total yearly payroll in the industry has been falling steadily since 1948. This decline is due primarily to variable, but generally decreasing, salmon runs and increased competition from other products. The expanding production of fresh, frozen, and cured salmon has provided some additional employment opportunities in Alaska in recent years. See Table V. However, the employment and payroll gains due to this increased production have been moderate.

An examination of the data in Table V indicates that the average employment level in Alaska's seafood canning and preserving industry in 1963 was only about 55 percent of the average employment in 1951. Furthermore, the total industry payroll in 1963 was only 65 percent of the industry payroll in 1952. A further indication of the great magnitude of the industry's decline is the fact that during the peak employment period in the summer of 1963 almost 7,000 fewer persons were employed than were employed during the peak months in 1952.

One bright spot in the industry's employment picture appears as a result of the growth in king crab production. Expanded king crab operations have helped to cushion the overall decline in employment. These operations also have helped to reduce slightly the extreme seasonality of the industry's employment picture. Table V indicates

Table V

Year	Lowest Month	Peak Month	Monthly Average	Yearly Payroll*	Monthly Income
1950	500	11,600	4,416	\$19,700,000	\$372
1951	350	13,350	4,649	22,100,000	396
1952	570	13,870	4,489	24,400,000	453
1953	370	12,170	3,791	19,800,000	435
1954	450	8,450	2,568	12,600,000	409
1955	510	8,110	2,645	12,900,000	406
1956	490	8,190	2,772	17,400,000	523
1957	520	7,920	2,624	16,000,000	508
1958	710	7,410	2,544	14,700,000	482
1959	600	4,700	1,841	9,800,000	444
1960	750	6,650	2,312	16,900,000	609
1961	840	6,340	2,431	17,400,000	596
1962	990	6,790	2,528	16,300,000	537
1963	990	6,890	2,541	15,900,000	521

*Rounded off to the nearest \$100,000.
Source: Computed from data obtained from the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor.

that although overall average employment has declined sharply since 1950, almost twice as many persons today are employed during the off season period of December through March as were employed in these same months during 1950.

During 1963 the industry provided employment for 17,867 fishermen, 11,162 of which were resident and 6,705 of which were non-resident. These fishermen received a total of \$46,859,080 for the fish they caught during 1963.

FISHERIES TAXES

The State of Alaska received \$2,880,400 in tax revenues from commercial fishing in the fiscal year 1964. This was about \$815,000 less than the amount the State received the previous year from the same tax source. See Table VI. Commercial fishing taxes collected in fiscal year 1964 accounted for 7.25 percent of total state tax revenues from all sources during that period. In fiscal year 1963, commercial fishery taxes comprised 9.27 percent of total state tax revenue obtained from all sources.

The raw fish tax is the most important tax collected directly from Alaska's commercial fishing operations. The amount collected each year fluctuates directly with the size of the annual catch. During the four fiscal years 1961 through 1964, the raw fish tax accounted for an average of 72.9 percent of all fisheries taxes collected by Alaska. During this same four year period, vessel and gear licenses brought in 13.8 percent of the fisheries taxes,

and resident and non-resident licenses for commercial fishermen accounted for 6.2 percent.

EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE

The year 1964 may be a critical one for Alaska's fisheries industry. The March 27, 1964 earthquake caused a mass mortality of certain species of deep-water marine fish and shell fish through disturbance of their normal habitat. An immediate and dramatic effect of the earthquake on Alaska's sea life appeared on the morning of March 28 when tremendous numbers of red snappers, some weighing as much as 30 pounds, were found floating dead on the surface of Prince William Sound. These fish which normally inhabit water deeper than 400 feet, evidently were killed by rapid pressure changes as turbulent currents caused by the earthquake forced them toward the surface.

Of greater long run significance however, is the drastic changes caused by the earthquake to underwater topography along the Alaskan seacoast. Experts feel that some of the normal salmon spawning beds may have been damaged or destroyed by these land-level changes. The ultimate effect of these changes on future salmon runs in southcentral Alaska is difficult to evaluate at the

Table VI

TAX REVENUES TO STATE OF ALASKA FROM COMMERCIAL FISHING					
1961-1964 Fiscal Years					
Source of Tax Revenue	1961	1962	1963	1964	Average Percent for 4 Years
Raw Fish Tax	\$2,107,600	\$2,707,800	\$2,492,700	\$2,024,200	72.9
Vessel and Gear License	438,000	349,900	567,000	407,000	13.8
Resident Fisherman's License	109,200	80,900	135,200	100,100	3.3
Non-Resident Fisherman's License	93,300	71,700	111,000	89,000	2.9
Cold Storage and Other Processor's Tax	99,000	101,600	153,300	189,500	4.2
Freezer Ship Tax	16,300	45,800	236,100	70,600	2.9
Total	\$2,863,400	\$3,357,700	\$3,695,300	\$2,880,400	100.0
Percent of Fisheries Taxes to Total State Tax Revenues from all Sources	8.80	9.13	9.27	7.25	

Source: Department of Revenue of the State of Alaska.

present time. It may be years before the full effect of these changes will be felt. The pattern of salmon spawning and fishing in the affected areas will undoubtedly be changed but it is hoped that the net overall effect of losses and gains in future salmon runs will at least balance out one another.

A large number of crab pots were found partially or entirely buried by the sediment dumped by the quake over large areas of the bottom of Prince William Sound. Apparently the crab population was not seriously affected by the underwater landslides however, since crab catches have been approximately the same after the earthquake as they were before.

ALASKA EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor estimated that 82,500 persons were

ESTIMATED CIVILIAN WORK FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR ALASKA

INDUSTRY	September 1964	PERCENT CHANGE FROM	
		August 1964	September 1963
CIVILIAN WORK FORCE	85,600	- 5	+ 2
INVOLVED IN WORK STOPPAGES..	100	0	+100
TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT	3,000	- 9	-21
Percent of Work Force	3.6	-	-
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	82,500	- 5	+ 3
Non Agricultural Wage and Salary	70,700	- 5	+ 4
Mining	1,400	0	0
Construction	9,500	0	+32
Manufacturing	6,700	-30	+10
Food Processing	3,300	-47	+22
Logging, Lumber and Pulp	2,400	0	0
Other Manufacturing	1,000	0	0
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	7,300	- 4	- 1
Trucking and Warehousing	1,200	- 7	+ 9
Water Transportation	1,400	- 7	- 7
Air Transportation	1,800	- 5	0
Other Transportation, Communication and Utilities	2,900	0	- 3
Trade	9,000	0	- 2
Wholesale Trade	1,600	- 6	- 6
Retail Trade	7,400	+ 1	- 1
General Merchandise Apparel	2,000	+ 5	- 5
Food Stores	1,100	0	0
Eating and Drinking Places	1,900	0	0
Other Retail Trade	2,400	0	0
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2,000	0	0
Service and Miscellaneous	6,700	- 3	0
Government	28,100	0	0
Federal	17,000	- 2	+ 1
State	6,900	+ 5	- 3
Local	4,200	+ 2	0

employed in Alaska in mid-September. This figure represents a decrease of 3,900 from August, but an increase of 2,700 over September of 1963.

The seasonal decline in employment took place in several major industries. Employment in food processing reached its peak in July and started its downward trend in August. From August to September, as the canneries closed, employment in food processing decreased by 2,900 jobs. The transportation, services, and federal employment categories suffered lesser decreases. The State and local government categories showed an increase of 400 jobs as a result of the beginning of the school year.

The yearly increase in employment was highlighted by the contract construction industry's best season since 1960. Contract construction accounted for the largest gain, although fish processing employment increased 600 during the same period. Employment in wholesale and retail trade was below last year's level as a result of the earthquake, and State government employment was also lower.

The mid-September unemployment level of 3,000 was 300 less than the preceding month and 800 lower than in September of 1963.

KETCHIKAN, ALASKA			
SEPTEMBER, 1964			
Population in City Limits	Population in Trade Area	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units	
6,900	10,500	2,450	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS			
	September 1964	Percent change from August 1964 to September 1963	
Mining	0	0	0
Contract Construction	350	0	+35
Manufacturing	1,400	-9	+10
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	700	-7	+37
Trade	590	-3	+9
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	100	+11	+11
Service and Miscellaneous	410	+17	+17
Government	810	+3	+5
Other	650	-2	+14
Total Employment	5,010	-2	+15
Total Unemployment	130	+8	-13
Total Civilian Work Force	5,140	-2	+14
Percent Unemployed	2.5		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	\$15,952	+8	+32
Telephones in Service	2,629	0	+1
Lighting and Power Customers	3,233	0	+1
Municipal Water Customers	2,386	0	-1
Kilowatt Hours Sales	3,112,899	-7	+4

Ketchikan

The Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor estimated that total employment in the Ketchikan labor market area dropped from 5,130 persons in August to 5,010 in September. Most of the decrease took place in the manufacturing category as a result of the fish cannery operators closing down their plants. The decrease followed the normal seasonal pattern. The downward trend was accelerated by the curtailment of cold storage activities.

Total employment in September showed an increase of 650 over September of 1963. All classifications, except mining, experienced an increase. The overall increase was attributed mainly to a good fishing season which helped create the full employment level in the canneries. Lumber exports also increased during this period thus providing job opportunities in the wood products industry.

Total unemployment increased from 120 in August to 130 in September, and the unemployment rate increased from 2.2 to 2.5 percent. This seasonal trend is expected to continue for several months as a result of seasonal layoffs in the fishing, and lumber and logging sectors.

This year's unemployment rate decreased to 2.5 from last year's rate of 3.3. This improvement was due to increases in the construction, and transportation-communications and utilities categories.

JUNEAU, ALASKA			
SEPTEMBER, 1964			
Population in City Limits	Population in Trade Area	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units 1960	
7,500	12,000	2,286	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS			
	September 1964	Percent change from August 1964 to September 1963	
Mining	10	0	0
Contract Construction	310	-6	-3
Manufacturing	160	0	-11
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	500	0	-4
Trade	730	0	+14
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	140	+8	+8
Service and Miscellaneous	460	0	-4
Government	3,290	+2	+5
Other	640	0	+2
Total Employment	6,240	+1	+3
Total Unemployment	130	-7	-7
Total Civilian Work Force	6,370	+1	+3
Percent Unemployed	2.0		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	18,588	-31	-16
Telephones in Service	4,533	-	-
Lighting and Power Customers	8,358	+3	+5
Municipal Water Customers	1,142	-	-
Kilowatt Hours Sales	3,323,366	+8	+5

Juneau

The Employment Security Division of the Alaska State Department of Labor estimated that there were 6,240 persons employed in the Juneau labor market area in mid-September. This figure represents an increase of 60 jobs over mid-August, most of which occurred in the State and local government categories. In addition, the finance-insurance and real estate category experienced an increase, but employment within the construction area decreased. There were no changes in the manufacturing or the transportation-communications and public utilities employment categories.

This September the Juneau area enjoyed an increase of 200 in the total number of persons employed over September of 1963. Increases occurred in the government and trade finance-insurance and real estate categories, but all other categories experienced losses.

Total unemployment decreased from 140 in August to 130 in September. During the same period the unemployment rate decreased from 2.2 to 2.0 percent.

Similarly the total unemployment figure decreased from 140 in September of 1963 to 130 in September of 1964, and the unemployment rate decreased from 2.2 to 2.0.

Employment began the usual seasonal decline in early October.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

SEPTEMBER, 1964			
Population in City Limits	Population in Trade Area	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units	
15,051	39,927	4,964	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS			
	September 1964	Percent change from August 1964 to September 1963	
Mining	200	-13	-17
Contract Construction	1,740	+ 3	-24
Manufacturing	300	0	+ 3
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	960	- 2	+ 7
Trade	1,680	- 2	+ 2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	400	- 5	- 5
Service and Miscellaneous	1,080	-11	-11
Government	5,400	- 2	+ 6
Other	1,740	+ 7	+ 1
Total Employment	13,500	- 1	- 3
Total Unemployment	430	-19	-31
Total Civilian Work Force	13,930	- 2	- 4
Percent Unemployed	3.1		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	\$51,312	- 8	+ 4
Telephones in Service	5,570	0	+ 2
Lighting and Power Customers ..	9,358	+ 2	+ 4
Municipal Water Customers	2,064	+ 3	+26
Kilowatt Hours Sales	6,297,638	+ 6	+12

Fairbanks

The total number of persons employed in the Fairbanks labor market area decreased from 13,680 in mid-August to 13,500 in mid-September. The Employment Security Division of the Alaska State Department of Labor announced that all employment categories except construction and manufacturing experienced a decrease of employment.

Employment decreased, between September of 1963 and September of 1964, in all categories except manufacturing, transportation-communications and utilities, trade and government. A total loss of 340 jobs occurred during the period. Contract construction employment suffered a loss of 540, but the government category increased by 280 owing to additional Federal government openings.

Total unemployment was estimated to be 430 which was a decrease of 100 from August. Concurrently the unemployment rate decreased from 3.7 to 3.1 percent. The improvement in the unemployment situation was attributed to an unusually late working season which resulted from an extension of warm weather.

Both the unemployment rate and total unemployment this September showed a decrease from September of 1963. Unemployment dropped from 620 to 430, and the rate of unemployment went down from 4.3 to 3.1.

Approximately \$6,500,000 in contract construction awards were announced in September, and additional projects were advertised for bid.

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

SEPTEMBER, 1964			
Population in City Limits	Population in Trade Area	Number of Occupied Dwelling Units	
49,700	102,100	14,311	
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS			
	September 1964	Percent change from August 1964 to September 1963	
Mining	500	0	+ 2
Contract Construction	4,590	+ 2	+42
Manufacturing	710	- 5	+ 6
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	2,320	0	+ 6
Trade	4,390	+ 1	- 1
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	1,080	0	0
Service and Miscellaneous	3,270	+ 1	+ 2
Government	12,540	- 1	+ 3
Other	3,220	- 1	+ 4
Total Employment	32,620	0	+ 7
Total Unemployment	880	-11	-20
Total Civilian Work Force	33,500	0	+ 6
Percent Unemployed	2.6		
SELECTED BUSINESS DATA			
Postal Receipts	\$140,139	- 5	+15
Telephones in Service	26,607	+ 1	+ 8
Lighting and Power Customers ..	24,343	+ 3	+ 5
Municipal Water Customers	9,876	+ 2	- 1
Kilowatt Hours Sales	22,583,428	+19	+18

Anchorage

Total estimated employment in the Anchorage labor market area edged upward to 32,620 jobs in September according to the Employment Security Division of the Alaska Department of Labor. The increase was attributed to additional employment in general building and special trades construction, retail trade, and the service category. Also, there were employment increases in the State and local government categories created by the opening of school. Considerable residential and commercial building activity was in progress of which a large portion involved the repair and replacement of structures destroyed by the earthquake.

Total employment increased from 30,640 in September of 1963 to 32,620 in September of 1964. The yearly increase occurred in the overland trucking and water transportation, service, and government employment categories. The increase in overland trucking and water transportation was a result of the closure of the earthquake destroyed Port of Seward.

An estimated 880 persons were unemployed in mid-September compared to 990 in mid-August. During this period the unemployment rate decreased from 2.9 to 2.6. Seasonal unemployment in construction was the largest single factor in the monthly and yearly decline.

The number of unemployed persons in September of 1964 was 200 less than in September of 1963 and the unemployment rate dropped from 3.5 to 2.6 percent.