

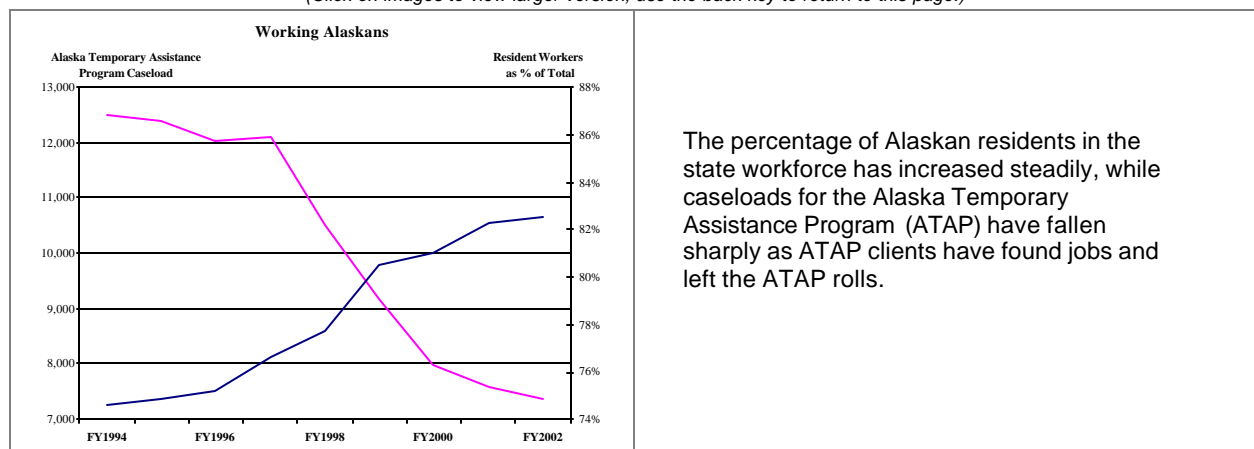
Governor's Priorities: Jobs and Economic Development

Desired Result:

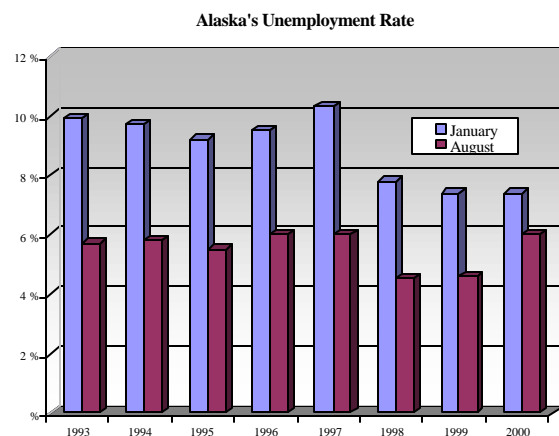
A growing, sustainable economy that provides good, safe jobs for Alaskans.

KEY BASELINE INDICATORS FOR JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

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The annual average unemployment of 6.4% experienced in 1999 was the second lowest recorded in Alaska since the beginning of data collection in 1978. The lowest recorded unemployment of 5.8% occurred in 1998.



GOALS AND STRATEGIES:

1. Increase opportunities for Alaskans to have good, safe jobs.

- Continue a strong partnership with Alaska's businesses including oil, fishing, seafood, mining, timber and tourism.
- Facilitate transport of North Slope natural gas to lower 48 markets, maximizing Alaska hire and use of Alaska companies.
- Continue to stimulate new oil and gas development on the North Slope with projects such as Alpine, Northstar, and Badami.
- Promote value-added processing of timber, seafood, and other resources—particularly in high unemployment areas—through incentives, research, loans and grants.
- Ensure Alaska's place in national and international competitive salmon markets by setting and adhering to quality, marketing and product development standards.
- Expand business opportunities in Alaska by providing long-term financing assistance through the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority.
- Provide critical transportation infrastructure for viable economic development, such as the "Gateway Alaska" redevelopment of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport and related transportation projects.
- Continue to promote Alaska's geographic advantage to airlines and air cargo companies, creating jobs for Alaskans and encouraging maximum use of Alaska's airport facilities.
- Provide technical assistance to support small business development and expansion.
- Provide assistance, through coordinated response partnerships, to communities experiencing sudden economic disruptions.
- Spearhead a research strategy addressing the entire life cycle of impacted western Alaska salmon stocks, with special attention to identifying causes of the salmon declines, management changes to promote recovery, and opportunities to engage residents in ongoing research, monitoring and management.
- Continue a strong partnership with regional economic development organizations including Alaska Regional Development Organizations, regional profit and non-profit Native corporations, and Community Development Quota groups to identify and develop opportunities for rural, regional and local economic development.
- Use rural partnerships to help job seekers seize employment opportunities through training and better matching skills to projected employment needs.
- Coordinate activities and funding with the Denali Commission and federal agencies to improve the effectiveness of state and federal investments throughout rural Alaska.
- Expand the promotion of Alaska tourism, trade, and Alaska-made products.
- Facilitate the exchange of information between Alaska exporters and potential customers through business information exchange services and trade practice assistance.
- Identify and assist in planning and developing new tourism opportunities to expand Alaska's tourist season and increase visits to rural Alaska.

- In partnership with a private industry association, raise national and international awareness of Alaska as a tourist destination, and increase the consumption of Alaska seafood products through generic and targeted marketing.
- Organize and conduct business trade missions to expand product sales in current markets and develop new markets.
- Retain state oversight of occupational safety and health and continue to work in partnership with employers and workers to reduce injury, illness, and death in Alaska's workplaces.

2. Encourage responsible resource development with sound science, prudent management and good public process.

- Ensure we "Do Resource Development Right" with:
 - 1) sound science bringing the latest and best scientific information about resources to bear including best technologies and local knowledge;
 - 2) prudent management a) focusing on conservation and sustainability, b) utilizing resident contractors and workers, and c) including field monitoring and review to assure quality information and adaptive management; and
 - 3) responsive, meaningful public involvement which includes stakeholders, communities, and citizens in ongoing public review.
- Take full legal and administrative measures to reverse and prevent the federal government and courts from usurping Alaska's resource management authority.
- Ensure the state is prepared and able to resume full management of subsistence.

3. Hire and train Alaskans for Alaska jobs.

- Maximize the benefit of economic development and job creation for Alaska's

residents through work force development, promotion of resident hire, and moving Alaskans from welfare to work.

- Target welfare recipients for job opportunities with mandatory work and training requirements and incentives that make it pay to work.
- Increase training and child care programs to facilitate employment for out-of-work Alaskans.
- Promote school-to-work partnerships between schools and businesses to prepare Alaska's children for good job opportunities.
- Work with Community Development Quota groups to increase training and employment in high unemployment areas of Western Alaska.
- Continue initiatives with fish processors and factory trawlers to increase their percentage of Alaska hire.
- Provide management training for local personnel in the administration of electric utilities and bulk fuel storage system facilities.
- Continue to coordinate job training efforts through the Governor's Jobs and Training Mini-Cabinet and the Alaska Human Resources Investment Council with organized labor programs, private sector employers, and new initiatives such as the Alaska Works partnership.

Highlights of progress in 2000

- ☑ In FY 2000 the annual average number of jobs in Alaska's economy grew by 3,900 (statewide nonagricultural employment), an increase of 1.4 percent.
- ☑ Alaska residents received 89.9 percent of wages in 1999, a 1.1 percent increase from 1998.
- ☑ All unemployment claims are now handled through 24-hour, toll-free, regional call centers.
- ☑ The annual average unemployment of 6.4 percent experienced in 1999 was

- ☑ the second lowest recorded in Alaska since the beginning of data collection in 1978. The lowest recorded unemployment of 5.8 percent occurred in 1998.
- ☑ Alaska exported \$2.56 billion worth of goods in 1999, an increase of 31 percent over 1998. Alaska's total exports for the first half of 2000 were \$1.21 billion, an increase of 11 percent over the first half of 1999.
- ☑ Continued dramatic reductions in welfare caseload with Workstar and other successful placement programs. In the past four years, Alaska's welfare caseload has dropped 37 percent to its lowest level since 1990, reducing welfare payments about \$50 million last year, and a total of \$116 million over the last three fiscal years.
- ☑ The State Training and Employment Program (STEP) prepared 1,224 Alaskans, especially in rural areas, for mining, seafood, health care, and other jobs.
- ☑ \$1 billion in State Transportation Improvements Program projects, 1998-2000, created many construction and maintenance jobs, especially in rural Alaska.
- ☑ Continued development of the Ketchikan shipyard, facilitating new industry and continuing expanding number of jobs.
- ☑ Introduced fresh Alaska seafood to hotel restaurants and other high-end customers, to the benefit of the seafood and air cargo industries. Trade missions and promotions resulted in over \$200,000 in direct sales and over \$2 million projected sales by Alaska seafood companies to new customers in Korea.
- ☑ Promoted the sale of Alaska produce (seed potatoes, table stock potatoes, cabbage, and carrots) in Taiwan and promoted a decision by the People's Republic of China to allow seedstock potatoes into their country.
- ☑ Expanded the Community Development Quota fisheries program, improving job opportunities in rural Alaska.
- ☑ Organized a ten-day, 33-member trade mission, led by the Governor, to Japan and China. The trade mission focused on marketing Alaskan products in the energy, seafood and technical services sectors.
- ☑ The Division of Investments established the Western Alaska program and obtained a \$3 million federal grant to provide loan financing for projects to create jobs and expand local economies in areas of the state affected by the 1998 fisheries disaster.
- ☑ Completed construction of the Kodiak Rocket Launch Complex and successfully launched two military rockets for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army.
- ☑ Completed bulk fuel storage consolidations and upgrades in 11 communities and upgraded rural power systems in six communities.
- ☑ Created an Internet-based system for online business licensing services. Licenses can now be purchased, updated and renewed online.
- ☑ Enrolled the first participants in the Voluntary Protection Program and the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program, new initiatives to recognize and promote exemplary workplace safety programs.

The Governor's Jobs Cabinet

Governor Knowles appointed a Jobs Cabinet of top state officials to coordinate and advance priorities for jobs and economic development. The members are:

- Commissioner, Labor & Workforce Development
- Lt. Governor
- Commissioner, Community & Economic Development
- Commissioner, Health & Social Services
- Commissioner, Education & Early Development
- Commissioner, Military & Veterans Affairs