

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/3114/Add.1
12 April 1956

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Eleventh session

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES: SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS
OF INFORMATION TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Summary of Information on Alaska^{1/}

^{1/} The present document summarizes information transmitted by the Government of the United States of America and is also submitted to the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories.

ALASKA

Information for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1955 on Alaska was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United States of America on 14 February 1956 in the form of the Annual Report of the Governor of Alaska to the Secretary of the Interior. The following is a summary of the information under the headings of the Standard Form for the guidance of Members in the preparation of information transmitted under Article 73 e. Account is also taken of information on the Territory transmitted by the Government of the United States in 1953 and 1954.

AREA

	Square miles	Square kilometres
Land	571,065	1,479,057
Inland waters	<u>15,335</u>	<u>39,718</u>
Total area	587,400	1,518,775

POPULATION

1952	1953	1954
(estimates as of 1 July)		
191,000	205,000	208,000

At the census of 1 April 1950, the main groups of the de jure population, including United States armed forces stationed in the area, were as follows:

Non-indigenous	94,780
Indigenous:	
Eskimo	15,882
Indian	14,089
Aleut	<u>3,892</u>
	<u>33,863</u>
	128,643

GOVERNMENT

Alaska became an incorporated Territory by the Organic Act of 1912; it is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. The territorial legislature, which meets biennially, is composed of sixteen senators and

twenty-four representatives. The Governor is appointed by the President, subject to ratification by the Senate of the United States. A delegate elected by Alaskans every two years represents the Territory in Congress; he may prepare and introduce legislation, and may act as a member of committees, but he has no vote. Alaskans elect the members of their legislature and also many officials of the Territorial Executive Branch. Non-elective heads of territorial executive agencies are usually appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of either or both houses of the legislature.

Basic responsibility for economic, social and educational development is vested in the people of Alaska acting through their elected representatives and officials. Alaska is in large measure self-governing and the relations between the Federal and Territorial Governments differ but little from the usual Federal-State relationship in the United States.

The federal judiciary consists of the District Court of the United States for the District of Alaska and the commissioners' courts. The courts in Alaska organized under territorial laws are the magistrate courts which incorporated towns are authorized to establish with jurisdiction over cases arising under local ordinances. The Territory has no supreme court.

E C O N O M I C C O N D I T I O N S

The main economic assets of Alaska are fish, minerals, timber, furs, agricultural land and waterpower. In recent years, fisheries production has declined greatly; in 1953, for the first time since 1921, the Alaska salmon pack fell to below 3 million cases; canned salmon usually accounts for between 80 and 90 per cent of the value of Alaskan fisheries products. This situation is of a temporary nature and is being remedied. In 1953/54 the particularly poor returns from the salmon fishery resulted in economic distress among the fishermen and cannery workers; the Alaska coast was declared a disaster area, special food supplies were shipped from the United States, and work projects were set up. Alaska's economic conditions did not change materially during 1954/55, but prospects for new industrial development continued bright and there is an increasing interest in the Territory's timber and mineral resources.

An unprecedented number of permits issued shows the trend towards permanent settlement. In this connexion a beneficial change was effected by the exclusion of some 29,000 acres from the national forest area in south-eastern Alaska; this land consists of areas surrounding the principal towns, the expansion and growth of which was thereby limited. Some 76,000 acres were likewise eliminated from the national forest area near Anchorage. A total of 1,181,000 acres of land previously held in special reserves had been restored to public domain by mid-1954 and had thus become available for homesteading or other development by residents of Alaska. In the next year, recommendations were made for the restoration of 413,000 additional acres.

Over half of the inhabitants of Alaska depend almost entirely on fish and wildlife for existence, and most of the rest are in various degrees concerned directly with wildlife resources. A great future value of wildlife lies in its utilization as a recreational resource for attracting tourists, whose visits are becoming of increasing economic importance. Protection and management are carried out by a five-member Game Commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The Alaska Department of Agriculture performs many functions such as vegetable inspection and marketing, seed and fertilizer testing, disease and insect control, encouragement of agricultural settlement, and educational work in improved farm practice. The Department is financed mainly by the Territory, with yearly contributions from the United States Production Marketing Administration. The work of the Soil Conservation Service, operating on Federal Funds, includes assistance to the Alaska Soil Conservation District in land capability surveys and on-site assistance to farmers. The United States Agricultural Research Administration co-operates in carrying out a research programme; a major part of the research effort is directed towards increasing food production. The United States Agricultural Extension Service, operating on Federal and Territorial funds, is active in the Territory. Other agencies co-operating in the encouragement of agriculture are the United States Bureau of Land Management, Forestry Service, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine,

Geological Survey, and Alaska Native Service; and the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, Farmers' Home Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration. The University of Alaska carries out research work and publicizes the findings, and provides an agricultural curriculum at college level.

Federal operational appropriations amounting to \$270,000 yearly, in addition to land-grant and Territorial appropriations, have revitalized agricultural research. Additional assistance to agriculture is provided by the Alaska Agricultural Loan Act of 1953. A revolving fund of \$200,000, administered by the Commission of Agriculture with the advice and assistance of a special board, provides farm development loans, chattel loans and crop loans. By 1 July 1954 loans totalled \$184,525. In 1955 the fund was increased by \$150,000.

Agricultural and livestock production

	1952	1953	1954
		(in thousand \$)	
Total agricultural production	2,865	2,820	2,878
Vegetables	734	1,156	...
Dairy products	1,225	1,017	...
Poultry	529	351	...
Beef and pork	197	...	...
Beef, pork, lambs, wool	...	142	...
Wool	55	...	...
Fur farms	125	...	...

FORESTRY

There are two national forests comprising about 21 million acres, with a potential annual yield of 1,000 million board feet. Private timber holdings (in Alaska) are widely scattered and small. The timber of the national forests is primarily valuable for pulp.

Timber cut and scaled in the national forests

	1947/48	1951/52	1953/54	1954/55
Board feet (in thousands)	99,275	61,892	70,283	182,000
Value (\$)	162,590	181,270	224,588	456,000

FISHERIES

The Federal Government, through the Fish and Wildlife Service with its Branch of Alaska Fisheries is responsible for the conservation of (Alaska's) fishery resources. Most field activities are directed through a regional office in Juneau comprising three operating branches (fishery management, game management, and law enforcement) and three service branches (administration, vessels, and aircraft). The territorial Department of Fisheries, established in 1949, comprises six divisions: administration, biology, inspection, predator (hair seal) control, sport fish, and watershed management. The Alaska Fisheries Board, composed of five members appointed by the Governor, represents commercial fishermen, processors and sports fishermen.

There is a Fishery Products Laboratory at Ketchikan. Technological and marketing investigations are conducted, and information, advisory and educational services are maintained.

The basic objectives of fishery research and management in Alaska are to establish current levels and trends of abundance in the major fisheries, to determine the basic factors responsible for changes, to forecast annually the abundance of major stocks and the amount of fishing intensity which they may support, and to recommend means of averting or mitigating damage to the Fisheries from industrial or other developments.

Value of Alaska fisheries products

	1948	1952 ^{a/}	1953 ^{b/}	1954
		(in million \$)		
Canned salmon for human consumption	96.5	76.4	58.2	63.4
Other salmon and salmon products	4.7	3.7	3.9	4.8
Halibut and halibut products	6.6	4.7	3.3	4.5
Herring and herring products	5.7	0.9	0.8	0.8
Other fish	1.4	0.2	0.3	0.4
Shellfish (mainly crabs, clams and shrimps)	2.0	2.6	3.2	3.9
Fur-seal meal and oil	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.1</u>
Totals ^{c/}	116.9	88.5	69.7	77.9

a/ United States of America: Alaska Fishery and Fur-seal Industries, 1952, Washington, D.C., 1954, pp. 30-31.

b/ United States of America: Alaska Fishery and Fur-seal Industries, 1953, pp. 37-38.

c/ Owing to rounding, totals do not necessarily agree.

Fur-seal research included a study of hookworm mortality on the rookeries and a joint investigation, by the Governments of Canada, Japan and the United States, of the distribution, migrations and food habits of fur seals in the North Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Japan and North America.^{1/}

Fur seals taken on the Pribilof Islands

1948	1952	1953
70,142	63,922	66,669

MINING

The activities in Alaska of the Federal Bureau of Mines are directed mainly towards obtaining data to encourage the development of a mineral industry in the Territory and of strategic mineral reserves of national significance. The Alaska Department of Mines administers territorial laws relating to mining (including the enforcement of safety regulations), makes field examinations, provides technical assistance to prospectors and miners, and publishes a mining bulletin. Activities of the Geological Survey consist largely of field studies.

In 1952 and 1953 Bureau of Mines field engineers visited most of the operating mines in the Territory and at the same time began the systematic collection of placer mine concentrates for laboratory analysis to determine the presence of hitherto undetected strategic minerals. By mid-1953 the presence of tungsten, tin and chromite had been detected in areas not previously known to contain these metals in important amounts. Mercury was found to be abundant in one area and columbium in another. During the summer of 1955 two promising uranium discoveries were reported in the southern part of the Territory.

The mine loan programme of the Defense Minerals Administration, which came into operation early in 1951, is administered by the Bureau of Mines in co-operation with the United States Geological Survey. By mid-1955, seventeen contracts had been executed, of which ten remained active; work had been done on four tin deposits, four tungsten, three mercury, two antimony, two copper, one nickel-copper and one platinum.

^{1/} United States of America: Alaska Fishery and Fur-seal Industries, 1953, Washington, D.C. 1955, p. 61.

A metallurgical laboratory of the Bureau of Mines on Juneau Island studied techniques to improve metal recovery from ores that occur in large amounts. Particular attention was given to the low-grade deposits of present marginal grade.

Special studies of Alaska's coal fields have been made, in particular by a team from the Bureau of Mines. The University of Alaska is studying the possibility of making coke from the local sub-bituminous coals.

Interest in Alaska's oil possibilities was intensified. Leases in effect rose from 1,022 in 1953/54 to 1,671 in 1954/55. Drilling was carried out on three wells in 1954/55. The economic feasibility of piping natural gas from the Gubik-Umiat fields to Fairbanks and the Railbelt area was investigated.

	<u>Production</u>				
	1947/48	1951/52	1952/53	1953/54	1954/55
Total mineral products (value in thousand \$)	13,189	20,580	26,300	24,328	...
Coal (in thousands of short tons)	410	686	860	801	702
Gold (in thousands of ounces)	...	241	254	...	...

Other mineral products include platinum, tin, silver, tungsten, mercury, lead and building materials.

POWER

Construction continued on the Eklutna power project near Anchorage. Power sites near Ketchikan, Juneau, Sitka and on the Susitna River between Anchorage and Fairbanks were studied.

The Rural Electrification Administration makes loans for the construction of rural electric lines. By mid-1955, there were seven REA-financed co-operatives, and several other applications for loans had been made; about \$40 million had been allocated, of which approximately \$15 million had been advanced, and about 13,340 consumers (with homes, farms or businesses) who did not formerly have central station power are now receiving electricity.

The great potentials of Alaska's hydroelectric resources have not yet been exploited; the willingness of the largest aluminum company in the United States to exploit the greatest of these potentials, at Taiya, provides one of the most promising power prospects.

INDUSTRY

The Alaska Development Board stimulates the development of the Territory's natural resources and promotes the establishment and expansion of industrial activities. The Resources Division of the Alaska Native Service is responsible for encouraging economic development among the indigenous peoples of Alaska.

Industrial activity is primarily in the processing of fish and in mining. The processing of timber products is expanding and should soon assume the position of a major industry. During the year ending 30 June 1954, a pulp mill at Ketchikan, costing \$52.5 million, began to utilize 150 million board feet of timber yearly; it will place one million acres of forest land in production. In the same period, for the first time, the manufacture of Alaska spruce into plywood began, and a number of large sales of timber were made.

An indigenous arts and crafts programme is carried out under the Resources Division in order to improve indigenous handicrafts, to develop new crafts and to provide marketing facilities; in 1952, sales handled through this Division had a wholesale value of \$155,000.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Roads

The Alaska Road Commission is charged with the construction and maintenance of highways, excluding the approximately 7 per cent of total mileage within the national forests. Appropriations of the Commission from its establishment in 1905 to mid-1954 totalled about \$184 million, of which \$170.6 million was appropriated by Congress. Of the Federal funds, about \$136 million has been appropriated since the current extensive highway improvement programme was started in 1948. Approximately 2,000 miles of highways existed in 1948; by mid-1955, roads maintained by the Commission totalled 3,543 miles, of which 2,174 were open throughout the year.

The Bureau of Public Roads of the Federal Department of Commerce is responsible for the construction and maintenance of all roads (totalling 310 miles) in the Alaska Forest highway system. By the beginning of 1954 an accelerated construction programme had almost been completed.

Transition of the Territory's economy from a seasonal to a year-round basis has necessitated ever-increasing winter-maintenance mileage. Special methods and equipment are used to keep roads open through eighty-foot annual snowfalls and 100-mile-per-hour gales.

Railways

The main-line railroad track, from Seward to Fairbanks, is 470 miles in length, with about sixty-seven miles of branch track.

Freight and passengers

	1947/48	1951/52	1952/53	1953/54
Revenue freight (in thousand tons)	930	1,355	1,597	1,608
Freight revenue (in thousand \$)	13,741	14,995	16,831	15,924
Revenue passengers (in thousands)	79	143	162	136
Passenger revenue (in thousand \$)	506	962	1,054	987

Air transport

There are international airports at Anchorage and Fairbanks, and twenty-nine other airports. On 30 June 1954, nine certificated mail carriers, ten exempted carriers and 115 pilot-owners were engaged in air transport within Alaska. The largest movement of passengers between the United States and Alaska is by air; in the year ending 30 June 1955, there were 96,546 inbound and 108,459 outbound passengers; international airport activity increased 24 per cent over the previous year.

Sea-borne shipping

Owing to regular heavy financial losses, the Alaska Steamship Company terminated its passenger service in October 1953. On the other hand, during 1954/55 a greatly improved freight service was introduced. One Canadian

passenger ship ran throughout the year between Vancouver and Ketchikan, and services were maintained in the tourist season as far north as Skagway.

Communications

The Alaska Communication System provides telephone and telegraph communications with the United States and within Alaska. The Communication System operates forty-five stations, with which are connected several hundred government and private radio stations.

The Division of Communications, under the Alaska Aeronautics and Communications Commission, is responsible for the establishment, operation and maintenance of radio-telephone stations in communities where no such services exist.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Budgets are prepared biennially by the various administrative agencies and are revised by a board comprising the Governor, the Auditor and the Treasurer.

Revenue and expenditure

	1947/48	1952/53	1953/54
		(in million \$)	
Revenue	8.8	24.2	26.3
Expenditure	8.2	21.2	26.8

There are fifteen territorial and five national banks, one savings and loan company, and seven bank branches and facilities.

S O C I A L C O N D I T I O N S

There is no racial discrimination. The fact that Eskimo, Indian and Aleut children attend their own schools in certain areas is due largely to geographical conditions; indigenous children may attend any school available. Likewise, there is no discrimination in regard to employment; the indigenous peoples have proved their ability to fit into the economic, social and political patterns of their

respective areas; in the professions, they have attained considerable recognition as attorneys, physicians and legislators.

The objective of the Alaska Native Service is the integration, at national standards level, of the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts (totalling 26 per cent of the population) into the social, economic and political life of the Territory. The Service carries out the following programmes: education, medical, oral health, welfare, placement, economic resources, lands, and construction. In the first two years of the period under review progress was made in all programmes; by mid-1953, many of the general objectives of the Service had been obtained. In the last year, though the disastrous fishing season created a serious setback to improvement of the general conditions of the indigenous peoples, progress was made in other fields, particularly in the medical and educational programmes.

The women of Alaska enjoy the same essential rights and benefits accruing to both men and women in the States, including the right of franchise and the right to serve on juries.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Federal Government's general labour policy in Alaska is to have the Federal laws apply in the same manner and to the same extent in Alaska as in the States. The labour policy of the territorial government is designed to fit the peculiar conditions of a pioneer country with a small population, a vast area, and very little manufacturing industry. The territorial representative of the United States Department of Labor directs the field staffs of the bureaux of apprenticeship, employment security, labour standards, labour statistics, veteran's re-employment rights, wage and hour and public health divisions, and wage-earning women. The territorial Department of Labor is supervised by an elective Commissioner of Labor whose duty is to enforce the health and safety regulations of the territorial labour laws, the child labour law, the wage payment law, and the equal pay law (equal pay for males and females). The territorial Department of Labour is also responsible for the mediation of labour disputes and the organization of training courses to eliminate occupational hazards. Under amendments enacted in 1955, the Alaska Workmen's Compensation Act is compulsory for all employers in the Territory except in agriculture, domestic service and railroads. A fund derived from license fees paid by all commercial fishermen

provides benefits for those who suffer occupational injury or disease. The Employment Security Commission is responsible for the operation of the Employment Service, with five local offices, and for the administration of unemployment insurance.

The Alaska Native Service operates a programme of placing qualified Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts in employment with the objective of integrating these groups into the money economy of the Territory. The programme aims at maximum use of indigenous labour on all projects in Alaska, and at the establishment of families at the place of employment when such employment is permanent. This programme has produced the following results: Eskimo, Indian and Aleut villages have more money for food, clothing and fuel purchases; welfare payments are reduced as employment opportunities increase; unemployment insurance benefits become available to many persons for the first time when winter weather stops work; those in remote villages learn of opportunities elsewhere for themselves and their families, and that survival away from their ancestral villages is possible; Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts are accepted by employers, unions and fellow workers as good workmen with many latent skills.

Employment situation

In 1953/54 there was continued growth in the permanent population, encouraged by greatly improved housing conditions; a decline in defence construction; and a consequent general decrease in employment. In 1954/55 the new \$50 million pulp mill at Ketchikan began to provide a steadier type of employment and took up some of the slack caused by the decrease in defence construction. Other employment increases were in oilfield development, transport, certain types of mining, trade and services.

Workers' and employers' organizations

The right of employers to organize in associations and the right of workers to organize in unions is the same in Alaska as in the United States. Labour disputes are settled in the same manner as they are in the States, with mediation and conciliation carried out by the territorial Department of Labor. The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service also has jurisdiction over Alaska and sends mediators as required.

Labour disputes ^{a/}	1952	1953	1954
Number of disputes	10	20	18
Number of workers involved	4,851	2,241	598

a/ International Labour Organisation: Yearbook of Labour Statistics, 1955, Geneva, 1955, p. 399.

Vocational training

A representative of the Federal Bureau of Apprenticeship works with employers and local unions (throughout the Territory) in setting up standards of employment and training under which apprentices are employed. On 30 June 1954, 286 young men were registered in apprenticeship programmes. Over 90 per cent of the apprentices who learn their trades in Alaska stay in the Territory.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The number of stores of the Alaska Native Industries Co-operative Association and their purchases were as follows:

	1952	1953	1954
Number of stores	51	48	48
Purchases (\$)	1,000,000	1,295,600	1,468,999

TOWN AND RURAL PLANNING AND HOUSING

By 30 June 1953 nearly 6,000 dwelling units had been committed for insurance by the Federal Housing Administration and the Alaska Housing Authority had approved a total of \$17 million in loans covering 1,300 dwelling units which were either completed or under construction. By mid-1954 there was no longer a housing shortage in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Kodiak; elsewhere in the Territory, however, some need for single-family housing remained, particularly at Ketchikan for permanent employees of the new pulp mill. The Alaskan Housing Authority is assisting in the urban renewal programme of Fairbanks. Ketchikan has applied for such urban renewal assistance, and it is also being considered for three other urban communities.

SOCIAL PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

Social security

Generally, all workers in commerce and industry are covered by social security; territorial and many federal employees come under the protection of this system. Contributory social insurance now assures support for the aged as an earned right rather than a public charity.

Social welfare

The territorial Department of Public Welfare is responsible for all public welfare activities with the exception of the Pioneers' Home (for aged residents of the Territory) and the general relief programme conducted by the Alaska Native Service. The territorial Board of Public Welfare is a policy-making body of four members, appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature. At mid-1955 there were six district welfare offices and 182 agents in outlying areas. The programmes provided for all needy people are old-age assistance, aid to the blind, aid to dependent children, juvenile and child protection, and child welfare service. General relief is administered to needy persons who are not eligible for aid through the Alaska Native Service.

Public welfare: number of persons aided and expenditure, 1954/55

	Average number of persons aided monthly	Territorial funds (in thousand \$)	Federal funds	Total Expenditure
Old age assistance	1,691	625	659	1,283
Aid to the blind	59	15	22	37
General relief (subsistence)	331	122	-	122
General relief (medical assistance and hospitalization)	66	182	-	182
Aid to dependent children	4,291	344	745	1,088
Child welfare services	783	231	-	231
Children's receiving homes	...	13	-	13

Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders

The Legislature of 1953 created a Department of Territorial Police to work in co-operation with municipal and Federal law enforcement agencies.

Crime statistics

Offences	Offences known to Territorial Police (1954/55)	Arrests by Territorial Police (1954/55)
Criminal	12	12
Rape	12	11
Robbery	33	19
Aggravated assault	42	32
Burglary	104	40
Larceny	415	51
Auto theft	299	42
Other offences	...	3,652

PUBLIC HEALTH

Services provided by the Alaska Department of Health include medical facilities, nursing, preventive medical services, maternal and child health and crippled children's services, mental health, medical social services, health education, sanitation and engineering, public health laboratories, and marine units. The Federal Public Health Service provides assistance through supplemental funds (over \$1 million in 1954/55), specialized health personnel, and research carried out by the Arctic Health Research Center; the Research Center, in addition to its basic problem of investigating Alaskan health problems, has undertaken two special projects, a programme for treatment of tuberculosis patients and the improvement of sanitary conditions in outlying villages. The isolation and low standards of living of much of the population, together with high costs of living, have made the staffing of hospitals and field services chronically difficult.

The Alaska Department of Health gives its principal attention to preventive services without distinction between indigenous and non-indigenous inhabitants. Most of the service is concentrated in southeastern Alaska, in the large towns, and in coastal areas visited by marine units. The Alaska Native Service,

on the other hand, renders principally hospital in-patient and out-patient care to indigenous persons. Preventive services, principally immunizations, tuberculosis case-finding, prenatal care and infant health clinics, are conducted by hospital staff in out-patient clinics and in villages.

Medical and health staff

	1951/52		1952/53	
	Govt.	Priv.	Govt.	Priv.
Registered physicians	24	68	18	80 ^{a/}
Nurses of senior training	155	465 ^{b/}	140	483 ^{b/}
Certificated nurses	...	...	113 ^{c/}	...
Midwives of senior training	4 ^{d/}	-	4 ^{d/}	-
Partially trained midwives	68	300 ^{e/}	100	300 ^{e/}
Sanitary inspectors	22	-	22	-
Laboratory and X-ray technicians	35	16	23	16
Other medical and health staff and veterinarians	4	...	3	5

- a/ Nearly all private physicians have government contracts, for example, with the Alaska Native Service of the Veterans Administration.
- b/ Registered nurses, not all necessarily actively engaged in nursing.
- c/ Comprising 46 trained practical nurses and 67 ward attendants with on-the-job training.
- d/ Nurse midwives, included in the figures for nurses of senior training.
- e/ About 300 women call themselves "midwives". They are recognized locally and receive some training and supervision from the Health Department, but are not certificated.

Institutions

	Number		Number of beds	
	1951/52	1952/53 (Year ending 30 June)	1951/52	1952/53
General hospitals	25 ^{a/}	25 ^{a/b/}	675	764 ^{b/}
Specialized units				
Maternity and child welfare centres	-	19	...	...^{b/}
Tuberculosis	2	6	...	450 ^{b/}
Mental institutions	-	1	...	...
Orthopaedic	1	1	...	...
Mobile public health units	3	...	-	-

a/ Excluding military institutions.

b/ Including a 400-bed hospital, with 300 tuberculosis beds, opened in the year ending 30 June 1953 by the Alaska Native Service.

Nutrition presents problems in certain areas, particularly where food habits are in a stage of transition. Nutrition education is provided throughout the Territory, and studies are being made of the food value of certain plants and animals which so far have been little utilized. In addition, the Alaska Department of Agriculture is expanding its garden programme northward.

In order to control tuberculosis, the main health problem among the Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts, the BCG programme was intensified in the isolated areas; in addition, two drugs (INH and PAS) which could be given by mouth were used; deaths from tuberculosis were considerably reduced. Hospital accommodation for tuberculosis patients was greatly increased, from 450 in mid-1953 to 1,215 in mid-1955; however, more than 200 patients were still awaiting beds. Clinics were opened for diagnosis and treatment in Fairbanks and Ketchikan, in addition to those already operating in Anchorage and Juneau.

New sewerage projects under final planning or construction in 1952/54 will benefit 36,700 persons at a cost of \$5.5 million. Waste disposal needs of the Territory remain acute; in permafrost zones no safe and satisfactory method of excreta disposal has been found.

Forty-two new water supply systems, costing \$12.2 million, were brought to the final planning or construction stage in 1952-54 to serve 63,000 persons. Forty Alaskan communities with populations over 200 remained either completely without community water supplies or needed major rehabilitation.

Vital statistics^{a/}

	1948	1952	1953	1954
Total births	3,079	5,755	6,799	7,040
Birth rate per 1,000 population	25.7	30.1	33.1	...
Deaths under 1 year	145	229	279	...
Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	47.1	39.8	41.2	...
Total deaths	1,197	1,264	1,286	1,195
Death rate per 1,000 population	12.9	6.6	6.3	...

a/ United Nations: Demographic Yearbook, 1955.

Tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza account for half of all indigenous deaths, most of the remainder being caused by respiratory infections, common communicable diseases, and accidents. The frequency and severity of these diseases held the indigenous population almost stationary from 1880 to 1950 in spite of a high birth rate; in 1950 there was an indigenous birth rate of 40, a crude death rate of 17 per 1,000 population, and an infant death rate of 52 per 1,000 live births. In recent years and especially since 1950 a noticeable increase in population has taken place, the annual excess of births over deaths having risen from 4 to 30 per 1,000 population in the last four years.

E D U C A T I O N A L C O N D I T I O N S

Attendance at school is compulsory for all children between the ages of 7 and 16 who live within two miles of a school or a school transport route. Correspondence courses are provided for all pupils living too far from the nearest school to attend. In addition to the schools run by the Department of Education and the Alaska Native Service, there are mission and local parish schools. The National School Lunch Program, financed through the United States

Department of Agriculture and administered by the Alaska Department of Education, offers lunches to all children attending the participating schools and provides meals free or at reduced cost to those unable to pay the full amount. All schools except those run by the Alaska Native Service are eligible to participate.^{1/}

	<u>Expenditure^{a/}</u>		
	1951/52	1952/53 (in thousand \$)	1953/54
Direct territorial expenditures			
Recurrent	3,446	3,932	5,269
Capital	23	512	283
Local funds			
Recurrent	1,146	1,681	2,020
Capital	1,381	1,425	1,253
Federal expenditures			
Recurrent	716	791	1,329
Capital	58	4	17
Totals ^{b/}			
Recurrent	5,303	6,404	8,618
Capital	1,462	1,940	1,553
Total	6,770	8,344	10,171
Allocations to schools from Tobacco Tax receipts (in addition to above expenditures)	740	851	811

a/ Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ended 30 June 1952, Juneau, 1952, pp. 121-122; Biennium ended 30 June 1954, pp. 141-142.

b/ Owing to rounding, totals do not necessarily agree.

1/ Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ended 30 June 1954, Juneau, 1954, pp. 37-38.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

All primary schools, whether government or independent, follow the same course of study but vary the teaching techniques to fit the locality. All teaching is in English; special schools are set up for children with language handicaps. The course of study covers kindergarten through 8 grades or 9 years, and the average age of leaving is fourteen or fifteen. Secondary schools are open to all who have completed primary school successfully, and cover four years or grades 9 through 12. The Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools approved 15 high schools operated as part of the Territorial System and 2 other high schools, 1 private and 1 operated by the Alaska Native Service. Total enrolments for these approved high schools was 21,441.

	<u>Schools</u> ^{a/}					
	1951/52		1952/53		1953/54	
	Govt.	Indep.	Govt.	Indep.	Govt.	Indep.
Primary schools	202	13	223	17	232	14
Secondary schools	32	2	32	4	31	5
Vocational schools ^{b/}	1	1	1	1	1	1
Teacher training	1	--	1	--	1	--
Higher education	1	--	1	--	1	--

a/ Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ended 30 June 1952, Juneau, 1952, pp. 77-87; Biennium ended 30 June 1954, pp. 88-100.

b/ In addition, the territorial vocational education programme was resumed in the year ending 30 June 1954.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

All primary schools, whether government or independent, follow the same course of study but vary the teaching techniques to fit the locality. All teaching is in English; special schools are set up for children with language handicaps. The course of study covers kindergarten through 8 grades or 9 years, and the average age of leaving is fourteen or fifteen. Secondary schools are open to all who have completed primary school successfully, and cover four years or grades 9 through 12. The Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools approved 15 high schools operated as part of the Territorial System and 2 other high schools, 1 private and 1 operated by the Alaska Native Service. Total enrolments for these approved high schools was 21,441.

	<u>Schools</u> ^{a/}					
	1951/52 Govt.	1951/52 Indep.	1952/53 Govt.	1952/53 Indep.	1953/54 Govt.	1953/54 Indep.
Primary schools	202	13	223	17	232	14
Secondary schools	32	2	32	4	31	5
Vocational schools ^{b/}	1	1	1	1	1	1
Teacher training	1	--	1	--	1	--
Higher education	1	--	1	--	1	--

^{a/} Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ended 30 June 1952, Juneau, 1952, pp. 77-87; Biennium ended 30 June 1954, pp. 88-100.

^{b/} In addition, the territorial vocational education programme was resumed in the year ending 30 June 1954.

	<u>Pupils^{a/}</u>					
	1951/52		1952/53		1953/54	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
All primary schools other than those operated by the Alaska Native Service	9,195	8,749	10,962	10,327	12,990	12,089
Alaska Native Service Schools (grades 1 through 12)	5,000		5,000		5,000	
Alaska Native Service teacher-aid schools	...		401		431	
All secondary schools other than those operated by the Alaska Native Service <u>b/</u>	1,567	1,419	1,859	1,668	2,119	1,930
Alaska Native Service high and vocational school		600		600		600
Higher education (winter campus) <u>c/</u>		311		over 300		412

a/ Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ended 30 June 1952, p. 88; Biennium ended 30 June 1954, pp. 101-102.

b/ Including the mission-operated Sheldon Jackson high school at Sitka, which is also a vocational school.

c/ Summer school students totalled 104 in the year ending 30 June 1954, and military branch students 826. An extension course in mining was taken by 928 students.

	<u>Teachers^{a/}</u>					
	1951/52		1952/53		1953/54	
	men	women	men	women	men	women
Teachers (excluding those in Alaska Native Service and private schools)						
Elementary	87	436	102	525	123	646
High school	77	77	75	82	91	84
Combination of high school and grades	18	26	23	19	27	16
Superintendents <u>b/</u>	14	1	20	1	24	1
Principals <u>b/</u>	10	3	14	3	20	2

a/ Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ending 30 June 1952, Juneau, 1952, p. 125; Biennium ending 30 June 1954, p. 155.

b/ Superintendents and principals teaching more than half time are counted as teachers.

	<u>Pupils^{a/}</u>					
	1951/52		1952/53		1953/54	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
All primary schools other than those operated by the Alaska Native Service	9,195	8,749	10,962	10,327	12,990	12,089
Alaska Native Service Schools (grades 1 through 12)	5,000		5,000		5,000	
Alaska Native Service teacher-aid schools	...		401		431	
All secondary schools other than those operated by the Alaska Native Service <u>b/</u>	1,567	1,419	1,859	1,668	2,119	1,930
Alaska Native Service high and vocational school		600		600		600
Higher education (winter campus) <u>c/</u>		311		over 300		412

a/ Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ended 30 June 1952, p. 88; Biennium ended 30 June 1954, pp. 101-102.

b/ Including the mission-operated Sheldon Jackson high school at Sitka, which is also a vocational school.

c/ Summer school students totalled 104 in the year ending 30 June 1954, and military branch students 826. An extension course in mining was taken by 928 students.

	<u>Teachers^{a/}</u>					
	1951/52		1952/53		1953/54	
	men	women	men	women	men	women
Teachers (excluding those in Alaska Native Service and private schools)						
Elementary	87	436	102	525	123	646
High school	77	77	75	82	91	84
Combination of high school and grades	18	26	23	19	27	16
Superintendents <u>b/</u>	14	1	20	1	24	1
Principals <u>b/</u>	10	3	14	3	20	2

a/ Alaska: Report of the Commissioner of Education, Biennium ending 30 June 1952, Juneau, 1952, p. 125; Biennium ending 30 June 1954, p. 155.

b/ Superintendents and principals teaching more than half time are counted as teachers.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education is provided by the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and through the Department of Mines of the University of Alaska. Local school districts and private agencies also afford opportunities for adult education.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The Alaska Historical Society and Museum in Juneau contains more than 15,000 volumes of Alaskanana; the University of Alaska maintains a museum and a Library with 20,000 volumes and 20,000 bulletins and pamphlets; and there is a museum in Sitka. Each of these museums has an extensive collection of indigenous artifacts.

Research carried out by the University of Alaska increased in volume and importance in the period under review, especially in the fields of geophysics, agriculture and mining. The Geophysical Institute will be a world centre for activities of the International Geophysical Year in 1957; members of the staff have had a large part in planning for the Year; one of them was appointed chairman of the Special Committee of the International Geophysical Year set up by the International Council of Scientific Unions.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Alaska has 7 daily, 1 tri-weekly, 1 bi-weekly, and 10 weekly newspapers. There are radio broadcasting stations at Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward and Sitka.
