

Galena

People and Place

Location

Galena is situated on the north bank of the Yukon River. The community is northeast of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. It is 45 miles east of Nulato and 270 air miles west of Fairbanks. Galena is located in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area and makes up 17.9 square miles of land and 6.1 square miles of water.

Demographic Profile

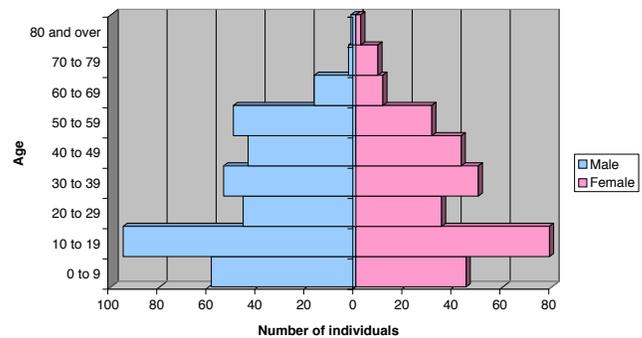
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the community of Galena had a total of 675 inhabitants. The gender ratio was swayed heavily toward males who comprised 54.8% of the population versus females who made up 45.2%. A population was first recorded for Galena in 1930 at which time there were 67 residents. The population of the community has grown since then, but has decreased in recent years with a population of 833 for the 1990, 158 more people than recorded for 2000. The racial composition of Galena for 2000 was as follows: 30.2% White, 0.3% Black, 63.4% American Indian and Alaska Native, 1.0% Asian (0.3% Filipino and 0.7% Korean), 0.3% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, 0.3% "Other", and 4.4% two or more races. A total of 67.4% of the population recognized themselves as all or part Alaska Native or American Indian. About 1.9% of the population was of Hispanic ethnicity. The median age in the community was 28.5 years versus the national average of 35.3 years. There were a total of 259 housing units in Galena in 2000 and of those 43 were vacant, with 18 vacant due to seasonal use. There were 63 residents living in group quarters and 612 living in households. Of the population age 25 years and over about 81.3% of the population had graduated from high school or gone on to further schooling and 28.6% had obtained a bachelor's degree or higher.

History

The Native peoples who have occupied the interior areas of Alaska have historically been Athabaskan, whose prototype language "was probably present in interior Alaska and the Yukon by at least 6000 BP" (National Park Service 2003). The area of Galena has been occupied by the Koyukon Athabascans who moved as the wild game migrated and had spring, summer, fall, and winter camps. Twelve summer fish

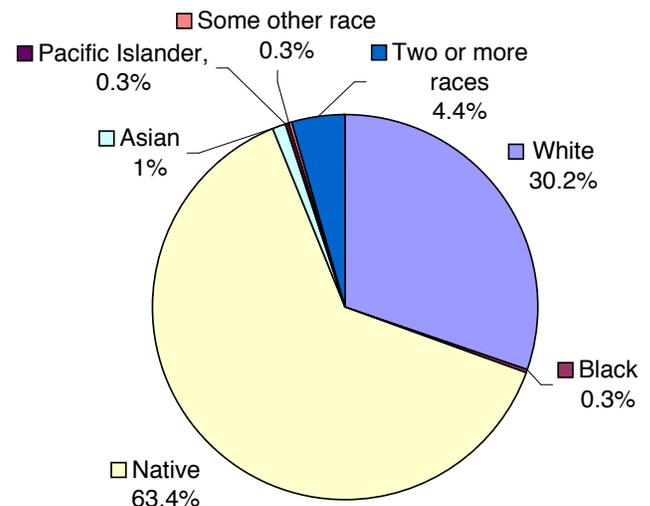
**2000 Population Structure
Galena**

Data source: US Census



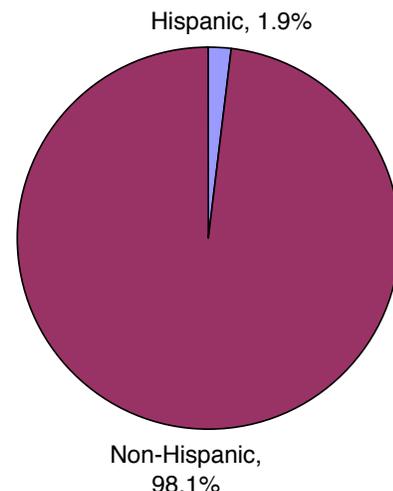
**2000 Racial Structure
Galena**

Data source: US Census



**2000 Hispanic Ethnicity
Galena**

Data source: US Census



campes were situated on the Yukon River between the Koyukuk River and the Nowitna River. In 1918 Galena was established near an Athabaskan fish camp named Henry’s Point. Lead ore mines were located nearby the community and Galena became a supply and trans-shipment point for the mines. Athabascans who lived 14 miles upriver from the community at Louden began moving to Galena in 1920 for work, hauling freight for the mines or selling wood. In the mid-1920s a school was built in Galena and in 1932 a post office opened. During WWII, Galena Air Field was built. There was a major flood in the community in 1945. Growth was sparked in Galena during the 1950s by military facilities at Galena and Campion Air Force Stations and airport and road developments. In 1971 another severe flood occurred which caused the community to move to Alexander Lake, about one and a half miles east of the original site. At “New Town” a City government was formed and new houses, schools, and facilities were built. In 1993 the Air Force Station closed. The Base facilities are currently in use by the Galena School District as a boarding school and the facilities are maintained under contract by Chugach Development Corp.

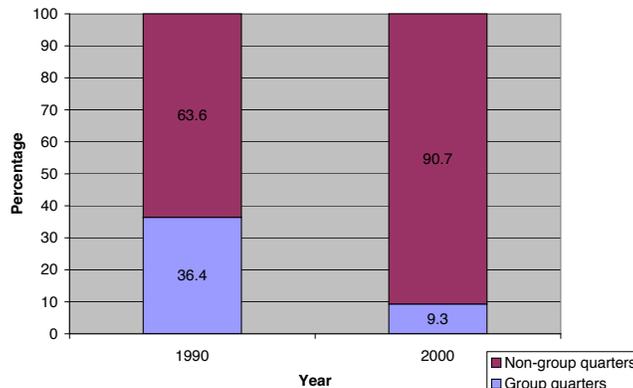
Infrastructure

Current Economy

The city of Galena is the center for the western Interior for transportation, government, and commercial activities. Jobs are dominated by government employment including federal, state, city, school, and village employment. Of those employed in Galena in 2000, about 68% were classified as government workers. In addition to government employment, jobs are also available in retail and in air transportation as well as seasonal jobs such as construction and BLM fire fighting. In 2000, 31 commercial fishing permits were issued to residents of Galena, and two residents were licensed commercial fishing crew members. Due to low market prices, the Illinois Creek gold mine, 50 miles southwest of Galena, has closed. Residents of the community are involved in subsistence activities. Of the population age 16 years and over about 67.5% were employed, 6.5% were unemployed, and 26.1% were not in the labor force. The per capita income was \$22,143 with the median household income having been \$61,125. About 10.2% of the population

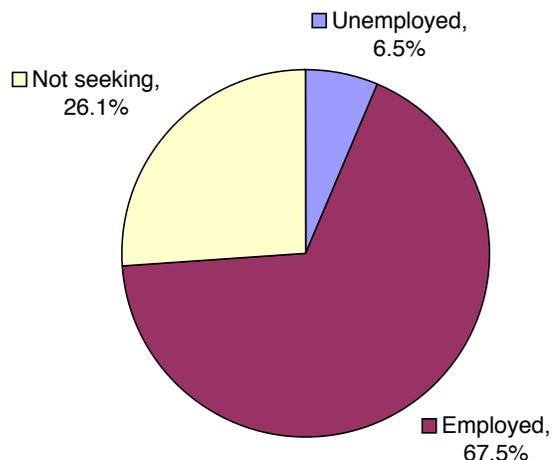
% Group Quarters Galena

Data source: US Census



2000 Employment Structure Galena

Data source: US Census



was below the poverty line at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

Galena is a first-class city, incorporated in 1971. It has a Manager form of government which includes a mayor, six person city council, five person school board, and various municipal employees. The city implements a 3% sales tax, but has no other taxes. Galena is not part of any organized borough and has its own school district, Galena City Schools. The regional Native corporation for the area is Doyon, Ltd. The Native village corporation is Gana-A’Yoo, Ltd which is the merged corporation of Galena, Kaltag, Koyukuk, and Nulato. The Bureau of Indian Affairs

(BIA) recognized Traditional Council and Village Council for Galena is Louden Village Council. The regional Native health corporation for the area is Tanana Chiefs Conference. The closest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is located within the city of Galena. The nearest Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) office is located in either Nome or Anchorage. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) main office is located in Anchorage.

Facilities

Galena is reachable by air, water, and land. The community functions as a regional transport center for neighboring villages. A 7,254 foot paved and lighted runway and a 2,786 foot gravel ski strip next to the main runway are present in the community. The airport provides the only year-round access to the community. The approximate cost to fly to Galena from Anchorage roundtrip according to Travelocity and Expedia is about \$493 (price given for date as close to September 1, 2003 as possible). Cargo barges are able to access the community on the river from mid-May through mid-October. A boat launch was recently completed. Locals use pickups, cars, snowmachines, skiffs, and ATVs for transportation. The frozen rivers are used for travel during the winter to Ruby, Koyukuk, Kaltag, and Nulato. There is a winter trail to Huslia. Accommodations are available in the community at Huntington's Venture, G&R Enterprises, Yukon Cactus B&B, and the Dancing Bear B&B. There are four schools in Galena: Galena Elementary School, Galena Jr./Sr. High School, Interior Distance Education of Alaska (IDEA), and Project Education Residential School. In 2000 there were a total of 3,846 students involved in these programs and a total of 63 teachers. Health care is available at Galena Health Center which is owned by the City and operated by both the City and the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). In 2002 a large addition was added to the clinic. The center is qualified for emergency care, x-ray, laboratory, dental, dental x-ray, and has a dark room. Police services are available from both the City Police and the State Trooper Post. The electric utility in Galena is the City of Galena and the main power source is diesel. The water system, sewer system, and landfill are all operated by the City; however, only 28 residences and the school are connected to the piped water and sewer system. A flush/haul system is used by 110 households, 20 use honeybuckets, and the remaining use individual

septic tanks. Currently, construction is in the works on a new well, water treatment system, storage tank, and washeteria. Additional residences are being added to the piped water system.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 there were a total of 31 commercial fishing permits issued to community members and two licensed crew members lived in the city. There were no resident vessel owners involved in either the salmon fishery or the federal fisheries.

Of 31 commercial fishing permits issued to residents, only one was fished in 2000. One permit was issued for herring roe using a gillnet in Norton Sound and it was fished in 2000. The remaining 30 permits were all issued for salmon and none were actually fished; six were issued using set gillnets in the Upper Yukon, one using a set gillnet in Kotzebue, and 23 using fish wheels in the Upper Yukon.

There were no landings of any kind to the community of Galena because no processor was present in the community in 2000. The city of Galena was allocated \$2,859 in federal salmon disaster funds in July of 2003 because of the recent drop in salmon prices and loss in taxes generated.

Sport Fishing

The city of Galena has a few businesses which cater to the sport fishing industry. In 2002 according to the ADF&G there were four businesses in Galena listed as freshwater guide businesses, three listed as full service guiding services, three listed as having tent/cabin services, four listed as having drop-off services, two with equipment rental services, and one with an aircraft/fly-in service. A total of 107 sport fishing licenses were sold in Galena in 2000, and all except 11 were sold to Alaska State residents.

Subsistence Fishing

According to the ADF&G's Division of Subsistence, the most representative subsistence year was 1985. In 1985, 100.0% of all households in Galena used all subsistence resources: 98.6% salmon, and 71.6% non-salmon fish (blackfish, burbot, grayling, pike, sheefish, sucker, trout, and whitefish). The per capita harvest of all subsistence resources was 787.06 lbs. Of that per capita harvest, 69.24% was salmon, 7.82% was

non-salmon fish, 1.00% was birds and eggs, 21.62% was land mammals, and 0.33% was vegetation. Also according to the ADF&G, 183 household permits were issued for subsistence salmon to residents of Galena in the year 1999 for an estimated harvest of 6,282 total salmon of which the majority was chinook and chum. Residents of Galena do not have the right to apply for halibut subsistence certificates.